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ROMANCE IN THE HUSK.
BY JAMES GREENWOOD.

THREE-FINGERED MUDGE.

CHAPTER I.

THE WESTMINSTER BRIDGE MURDER. THE MAN WHO MET HIS DEATH ESCAPING FROM JOB PIKRUST.

Two o'clock in the morning, and the Waterloo-road, like most other London thoroughfares at that hour, is quiet and well-nigh deserted.

The policeman on boat, pausing just by the Victoria Theatre and looking towards the bridge, discovers nothing in that direction to attract his particular attention. There is nothing stirring at the fire-engine station. He has a fair view of the little coffee-cabin at the corner of Stanhope-street, but tranquillity, apparently, reigns there.

Its little red lamp, serving as a welcome beacon to the isolated pedestrian, is dimly twinkling, and across the pavement, black and miry—for it is bleak winter time—in front of the open doorway there is a bright, broad streak reflected from the glowing charcoal fire within. Now and again the bright streak is momentarily obscured as some wretched female street wanderer, shivering with cold, looks into the cosy cabin in hope of finding there some good-natured fellow partaking of refreshments, and willing to pay for a pawn'th of hot coffee to put a little life into her benumbed frame. All is still, but presently the silence is broken, and that in such a startling way that the policeman starts as one rudely awakened from sleep. The scene of the sudden commotion is the little coffee-cabin. A man is seen rushing out of the place as though to save his life, and old Job Piusrust, the coffee-man, is hopping after him on his one leg—for Job is a cripple—and threatening the fleeing figure with his upraised crutch, at the same time shouting at the top of his voice:

Stop him! Hold him! Help! Murder!

The constable rushes forward, but he is not in time to prevent an appalling catastrophe.

The fugitive springs from the path into the road, but seemingly blind to any danger but that of being stopped and captured, he is heedless of a hansom cab in which are two hilarious gentlemen smoking cigars and exercising their voices with the chorus of a comic song. The driver, too, is smoking a cigar, and the vehicle is bowling along at spanking speed, when all in a moment the comic chorus is extinguished by a shrill shriek of agony, and the cabman with difficulty brings his horse to a standstill.

But it is too late. The individual the cripple was pursuing with his crutch is down in the road, and a wheel of the vehicle has passed over his neck, and it needs but one glance at his face, lit by the policeman's lantern, to pronounce him dead.

He is a man of middle age and muscular build. His attire is shabby, and the collar of his loose overcoat is turned up to his ears and, what with that and his wearing a neck shawl, and his slouch cap being pulled down over his brow, little more than his eyes are visible.

Job Piusrust, with his crutch now put to its proper use, is among the few onlookers at the ghastly tragedy. Job is a grizzled old man, but tough as whalebone, and seeing that the fatality was in no small degree due to him, his lack of commiseration is not a little remarkable.

The body is carried to Job's cabin and laid on a couple of forms while a doctor is fetched, and while the medical gentleman is making his examination. Mr. Piusrust is at his elbow and looking on with a keen interest.

"The man is dead!" says the doctor. "You had best carry him to the nearest mortuary, poor fellow! Who is he, I wonder?"

The first policeman has informed the other two, who are now present, of what he saw at the commencement, and they all three turn to the coffee-stall keeper.

"Who is he, Piusrust? What was he doing in your cabin, and what were you driving him away for?"

"Driving him off with his crutch, and shouting 'Help!' and 'Murder!' while he was doing so," put in the first policeman. "Did you know him, Job? You don't appear to be much cut up about it!"

"Well, to tell you the truth, I hain't," returned the coffee-man calmly. "Not that I am glad he is dead. For that matter, I'd give a pound, if I had one, to bring him to life again. I reckon I should be in pocket by so doing. As for knowing him, I was seven-eights sure of it before to-night. But there's no mistake about it now. It's him for a dead certainty. A werry dead certainty, indeed!" And he shook his head with undisguised disfavour at the inanimate object the police were preparing to remove.

"You'll have to come to the station, Piusrust," one of them remarked.

"Such is my intention," and the old man was putting on his coat and cap as he spoke. "I'll put it in the first policeman. 'Did you know him, Job? You don't appear to be much cut up about it!'"

"Good night!" he said, and held out his hand. "Good night!" says I, and took it, and shook it, and, while doing so, I was aware that the fourth finger of the glove didn't have a finger of flesh in it. It was studed out with paper. I felt the crinkling of it.

"Then, all in a rush, it came into my mind who he might be, but he was out of the cabin and off while I was looking after him with my mouth open.

"You see, it wasn't a matter one could reckon in a moment. I had to put this and that together. A man short of a finger? Well, what about him? What had I heard or read about such a one? It was six weeks ago since the reward bill was stuck about. That was where mention was made about a man deficient of a finger on his right hand."

"There are many men so deprived, very likely—many hundreds—but they are not all night-prowlers, or chaps who shake in their shoes and turn putty-grey when a policeman comes near 'em."

"If I had had the use of both my legs, I should have run after him, but how could I hope to overtake him on one leg and a crutch? Perhaps that was why he had pitched on my place to take his late supper. If he did or said anything that roused my suspicions, I couldn't well stop him."

"The more I thought about it, the more certain I felt that I had been given a chance of touching that two hundred pounds and it had slipped by me! But he may come again, thinks I. He left you friendly and affable, and he may pay you another visit."

"So the night following I made a little preparation. I have got a boy—'raps you know him?—a regular young rake-gutter, but sharp as a needle and next night he was hid under the counter."

"You 'bide there, still as a mouse," says I, "till I give you a kick, and then you slip out and follow the customer you see in the act of leaving, and find out where he goes."

(To be continued.)

regarded as a liberty if I gave you my opinion as to who these here things belonged to before he got hold of 'em?"

"Well, let's have it—out with your opinion!"

But instead of making verbal response, Job Piusrust produced from his bosom the police placard, and, carefully unfolding it, displayed it at its full size.

"Murder! Two hundred pounds reward.

Whereas, on the night of the 16th of January, the body of a foreign gentleman, named Juan Fernandez, was found on the steps leading down to the river on the Surrey side of Westminster Bridge, a stab in the region of the heart denoting the cause of death, and a coroner's jury having returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown, a reward of two hundred pounds will be paid to any one giving such information as will lead to the apprehension and conviction of the murderer. The deceased was in the habit of wearing jewellery, and of displaying the same, and was known to have in his possession a gold watch of considerable value, with a snake pattern chain attached, and which are now missing. It is supposed that the guilty person is deficient of the whole or part of a finger on the right hand."

"Just so," remarked Mr. Piusrust, with an emphatic jerk of his head. "You remember about that, of course?"

"About the finger? Yes; we have got the shirt-cuff. There are blood marks on it, as though with his right hand stained from the murderer who ever did it had gripped the wrist of his victim, leaving the impress of only three fingers and a thumb. What about the right hand finger of the man who was run over?"

The question was asked of the men who had conveyed the body to the mortuary. But they had taken no particular notice. Despatched at once to make examination they presently came back to report that the dead man had no joint to the fourth finger of his right hand.

"Good!" remarked Job Piusrust. "Now take

me down in writing."

"It is more than a week now since I first set eyes on him. This being Monday, it was last Thursday week. It was a bit after one in the morning. I did not take particular notice of him on that occasion. The only thing to take notice of was that he ate ravenous. They don't, in general, care much for eating at that hour. The customers then are mostly late workmen, going home to bed, and all they want is a cup of coffee to warm 'em with, may be, a slice of bread and butter or a bit of cake."

"But this one went in for wittles as though he was hungry. He ate five slices, and wanted to know if I had any cold meat, which I didn't have. He was miffed up just as you saw him to-night. There was nobody else in the cabin. He had five slices and two cups of coffee, and he took away three more slices of bread and butter wrapped in paper, saying he had to be up and out early, and they would do for his breakfast.

"It seemed queer, but though he didn't look it, he might have been half tired for all I knew, and it wasn't any business of mine, so long as he paid for what he had.

"He came again next night. When I say he came, he didn't come in free and independent like. It was about the same hour—one o'clock—and he was coming in but he turned away. He seemed to think there was no other customer there, but there was a man in the corner by the fire, and seeing him he muttered something about being 'back in a minute,' and went off.

"He didn't return for quite twenty minutes, when the man in the corner was gone, and I had served two or three other customers, who had left as well. He was hungry again, and ate as much as the night before, seeming anxious to eat and drink as quickly as he could. He asked me if I had that day's newspaper. I told him that the profits didn't run to my providing papers for my customers, and he then said that he didn't have a chance of seeing an evening paper, as he was kept working so late, and he always liked to have a look at one. If he left the penny, would I mind buying one for him next night?"

"It was an uncommon sort of request, you'll say, but there is always odd kind of people about between night and morning, and, without thinking much about it, I agreed to get him the newspaper. It was moonlight next night, and business being slack, I was smoking my pipe at the door, when I spied him coming along, quick and stealthy-like, in the shadow of the houses on the opposite side of the way. He ate and drank again, and asked for his paper, and opened it out before him as he sat by the fire. But he hadn't been at it two minutes before one of your men came in, not in uniform, a plain clothes man, for a cup of coffee.

"You are late!" I remarked; to which he answered, laughing:

"Yes; I am looking after a gentleman who is rather shy of daylight."

"The chap by the fire still held the paper before him, and the rustling of it drew my attention towards him. It was shaking in his hands as though he had been suddenly taken with an agree fit. I peeped behind the urn as I was drawing the coffee, and got a look at his face, and it was of the colour of putty.

"I tell you plain, I had my suspicions then; not strong 'uns, and pointing to nothing particular. I put it down that he was one of the shady sort, and on that account rather bashful; but he hadn't done me any harm, therefore, why should I round on him? The detective drank his coffee and went off. And directly afterwards the chap gets up in a strange, nervous kind of way. I ought to have told you that he wore gloves—thick ones, like drivers wear. He was still shaky and bewildered-like, and did not seem to know what he was doing.

"Good night!" he said, and held out his hand. "Good night!" says I, and took it, and shook it, and, while doing so, I was aware that the fourth finger of the glove didn't have a finger of flesh in it. It was studed out with paper.

"Certainly. It won't be a long job, I suppose?"

"Certainly. You haven't got a story to tell?"

"That's all you know about it," returned Mr. Piusrust cunningly. "I hain't got no story to tell to you, any way. What I've got to tell will have to be took down in writing, and before a witness, or perhaps I might be done out of it."

"Done out of what?"

"Two hundred pounds."

And while they were staring at him, perplexed as to his meaning, the old man drew out from his bosom, from next his skin, as it seemed, a precious paper folded square, and exhibited the top portion of it. It was a Government placard, and commenced—

"TWO HUNDRED POUNDS REWARD. MURDER!"

The police-sergeant put out his hand, but Job Piusrust hastily refolded the paper and placed it in his bosom again. "You take me," said he, "to the police station, and let me be tookdown in writing."

By the time the coffee-cabin had been wheeled home, and Job Piusrust, accompanied by a police officer, arrived at the police station, the body had been carried to the mortuary, and the following articles found in the pockets of deceased lay on the desk of the inspector in charge:

A white pocket handkerchief, a long and narrow-bladed spring-backed knife, five pawn-tickets relating to articles of men's attire, including one dated only the day before, for "two white shirts and flannel ditto, one-and-a-halfpence," and, contrasting curiously with this last-mentioned evidence of the man's poverty, there was discovered in a breast pocket a small leather bag, containing the gold case of a watch, broken and battered, five Spanish gold coins, and screwed up in a piece of paper, three loose diamonds and a ruby. There was no name on the handkerchief, or on any article of his apparel, and the pawn-tickets were credited to "John Jones," of Smith-street, which was a mere matter of form, and meant nothing at all.

Job Piusrust examined the things mentioned curiously, and with evident satisfaction. The gems especially. One of the diamonds was of considerable size.

"Been knocked out of a shirt-front stud, I should imagine," the inspector remarked.

"No," said Mr. Piusrust, "out of a single stone ring."

"How do you know that?"

"Because I've got the ring it was set in."

And as he spoke he produced from his waistcoat pocket the article mentioned. The stone had been so clumsily extracted that one of the "claws" was broken off, but otherwise it fitted in exactly.

The inspector looked at Mr. Piusrust in surprise.

"How did you come by this?" he asked.

"Hold hard," replied the methodical Job, "let us have it all regular and in order. How did we come by it, and the precious stones, and the foreign coins, and the smashed-up gold watch?"

"That will be our affair to find out afterwards," said Mr. Inspector sharply.

"But human beings pardon, sir, would it be

Consumption, Catarrh, and Asthma Radically Cured at your homes by a simple Remedy. Dr. W. A. Allen, Physician and Surgeon to the Cure Fins to any one who will send a stamped addressed envelope to Dr. J. P. Mountain, Imperial Mansions, New Oxford-street, London, W.C.—(Advt.)

regarded as a liberty if I gave you my opinion as to who these here things belonged to before he got hold of 'em?"

"Well, let's have it—out with your opinion!"

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MARGARET BYNG.

BY F. C. PHILIPS

(AUTHOR OF "AS IN A LOOKING-GLASS")

AND

PERCY FENDALL.

CHAPTER I.

THE MAN IN POSSESSION.

It was a smart little house enough in South-Park-lane, but somehow or other it had an uncared-for appearance. The day was one of those dingy days that dwellers in London may expect towards the close of November. A curious-looking man, whose occupation could never have been guessed save by the initiated, but who seemed a sort of combination of prize-fighter, policeman, and East-end potman, knocked at the door. He himself was dressed warmly and substantially enough, and wore a thick top coat of Irish frieze calculated to defy any weather, but the unhappy-looking little man who followed at his heels, and now and again gazed up submissively into his face, was wretchedly clad in thin and tattered garments, and indeed was as miserable an object as could well be imagined.

The burly man not receiving any answer knocked still louder, and as that seemed to produce no effect, louder still; and then he rang the bell so violently that he nearly wrenched the handle off. At last a maid-servant appeared at the door and inquired his business.

"Is Mr. Byng at home?" asked the burly man.

"No, he ain't."

"When do you expect him?"

"Don't know."

"Is your mistress in?"

"No."

"Well, I shall have to see some one. I am the officer of the sheriff of Middlesex, and I've got a warrant for a hundred and eighty-two pounds thirteen shillings and sixpence, and if it ain't paid I shall have to leave a man here. Come in, Gutteridge," he said, calling to his companion. The unhappy-looking Gutteridge shuffled into the hall and stood by the great man's side.

"Well, here's a go," said the servant. "Perhaps after all I shall be able to find misus."

"Yes, I thought you would," said Mr. Braddick, for that was the sheriff officer's name, "and look sharp, there's a good girl; time's money with me."

A few minutes later Mr. Braddick was shown into the drawing-room, where he found the lady of the house.

Mrs. Byng was quite young, apparently about twenty-five years old. She was singularly beautiful; her worst enemy would have been bound to admit it. She had magnificent chestnut hair, violet eyes of peculiar lustre, a perfect nose, and if her mouth were perhaps a little too wide, in shape it resembled the ace of hearts, and when opened disclosed pearl-like teeth. It was, however, a somewhat determined mouth, and a judge of character looking at its owner would have said that she was a woman who, once having put her hand to the plough for good or evil, was not likely to turn back. For the rest, Mrs. Byng appeared weary and ill, and worried, and considering her present circumstances, this was not altogether remarkable.

"What's this?" she asked. "An execution, I suppose?"

"Yes, ma'am, that's about it. It's at the suit of Madame Eugenie. A hundred and eighty-two pounds odd. Do you wish to pay it?"

"No, I cannot pay it," she said. "I must telegraph to my husband."

"Very well, ma'am, then I must leave my man here. You'll find him a very quiet, decent chap, who wouldn't hurt a fly, and, as long as he's properly treated, he'll keep himself out of the way. We always uses him when we can for jobs like this. You're very lucky to get Gutteridge. We've got one or two men at the office who are public blackguards."

"Is that all?" said the lady wearily.

"Yes, ma'am, that's all as far as I know. But if Mr. Byng'll go up to Mr. Ezekiel's in Chancery-lane, he'll find him a very nice gentleman, and there'll be no difficulty in settling the matter. If Mr. Byng hasn't got the money handy—and I know that many of you swell folks are short at times—Mr. Ezekiel will be able to get it for him. He's a very kind-hearted gentleman is Mr. Ezekiel, and I'm sure'll do anything to help a gentleman, let alone a lady like you," he added gallantly, gazing with undisguised admiration at Mrs. Byng's charms.

"Well, if that's all, I'll say good day," said Mrs. Byng. "Perhaps you will ask your man to go into the kitchen."

"Cert'nly ma'am, cert'nly," said Mr. Braddick, who still lingered on the threshold, probably in the hope of receiving a doceur. But if this was the case he was disappointed, and soon afterwards he took his departure, leaving Mr. Gutteridge master of the situation.

Mr. Braddick had not been guilty of exaggeration when he told Mrs. Byng that she was fortunate as to the disposition of the visitor who had thus been thrust upon her. Unhappily for those who are in pecuniary difficulties, men in possession are not, as a rule, of an accommodating or even an ordinarily civil disposition. No one would take to the occupation if he were fit for anything else or could get anything else to do; and the sheriff's officer, consequently, cannot afford to be too nice in the choice of the gentleman who follows at his heels. The man in possession is very often a soldier or a police officer who has been dismissed the service for misconduct. A man of this kind at once proceeds to establish a reign of terror—requiring food and drink at unreasonable hours, smoking filthy tobacco, and doing everything that suggests itself to his evil mind as likely to give annoyance. There is nothing to be done with a ruffian of this kind except to bribe him. His victims have too much upon their hands to formulate complaints or collect evidence in support of them, and would get but little redress if they entered upon the task. The only real remedy is to bring the fellow before a police magistrate, and, apart altogether from the miserable publicity of such an investigation, it is exactly what the offender himself would probably welcome. He would pay his fine or undergo his short term of imprisonment, and be at once marked out for future employment in his calling as a smart man for an awkward case.

Mr. Gutteridge, however, was of an entirely different type; he was a sort of pensioner of Mr. Ezekiel, and obtained his position through that official's wife. The very sight of him was distressing. He always suffered from asthma, or chronic cold in the head, or something or other that made him physically unpleasant. His infirmities were aggravated by his garrulity. If he received the least encouragement, he used to press the mistress of the household what he himself could not understand as consolation and advice. He drank tea inordinately. But he ate little, and was easily conciliated by any courtesy which showed him that he was regarded as an ordinary Christian. When he was not coughing or sniffling he was usually asleep. It was difficult to conjecture what he might have been. He was clearly respectable, and had probably failed in some small business or calling from want of health, or energy, or both. He will probably end in the workhouse, while his bullying or extortionate brother-officer is almost certain to retire in a few years as the fortunate proprietor of a beershop. But, when all is said and done, the sheriff's officer and his subordinates are, at their worst, men of honour, courtesy, and even kindness compared with the gentlemen who represent that legal instrument of torture, the bill of sale, in the various stages from its preparation and signature down to the almost inevitable conclusion of wreck, pillage, and, too often, downright theft.

The door had scarcely closed on Mr. Braddick before there was another ring at the bell, and in a few moments a gentleman of the name of Sharke was ushered in. Now, Mr. Sharke was a tenacious money-lender, whose loans were, as a rule, not far-seen, and came not when she married

secured by that terrible instrument known as a bill of sale, and Mr. Byng, having nothing else upon which he could raise money, had recently effected a loan with Mr. Sharke upon the security of the furniture at South-street. Needless to add, the instalments had not been punctually paid, and Mr. Sharke called on this occasion, determined, as he had told his chief clerk and trusty lieutenant, while the gentleman in question was helping him on with his coat, that he would have his money from this Byng or know the reason why.

"Sit down, Mr. Sharke, if you please," said Mrs. Byng. The money-lender did as he was asked, glancing round the room at the same time, apparently unable to conceal his anxiety as to whether any of the goods had been removed or not.

"I can guess the object of your visit, Mr. Sharke," said Mrs. Byng. "You have called for the overdue instalments on your bill of sale."

"Yes," replied Sharke, brusquely, "that's what I've come about, ma'am. I'm very angry with Mr. Byng, very angry indeed. He has always been in arrears from the very first; I've treated him like a gentleman, and that's more than he's done me, hounding me with a lot of promises that have never been kept. I don't understand such ways."

"Well, Mr. Sharke," said Mrs. Byng, "I can only say I am very sorry. It is not my fault."

"I don't say it is, ma'am. But it's nothing to do with me whose fault it is; that don't concern me. What does concern me is that I don't get my money, and I've come to give my ultimatum. If those overdue instalments ain't paid by twelve o'clock to-morrow, I shall put the bill of sale in force and send my man down to cart away the goods."

"You surely won't do that, Mr. Sharke?" said Mrs. Byng.

"I shall, ma'am, and you'll be good enough to tell Mr. Byng so."

"But we have paid you very heavy interest, Mr. Sharke; surely you will wait a little longer?"

"I don't call it heavy interest, ma'am," said Sharke, "especially when one don't get it."

"Well, I call it heavy interest, Mr. Sharke. You lent us a hundred and fifty pounds, and we had to give you a bill of sale for three hundred and twenty."

"Well, that's only a fair rate of interest," said Sharke.

"It is over a hundred per cent."

"I don't know what per cent it is, ma'am. I don't count per cents. I've no doubt it comes to a good bit with the expenses of preparing the documents and one thing and another. Of course it mounts up."

"Yes, Mr. Sharke, it does mount up, and I think that, under the circumstances, you ought not to be so hard upon us."

"I have let you do just as you like with me."

"Well, I don't know about that, Mr. Sharke. I fancy it is the other way; I think you have done just as you liked with us. In your advertisement you profess to lend money at five per cent. without publicity, and you said that no security was required. Now you have charged us more than a hundred per cent., you have taken a bill of sale and registered it, so that there has been every publicity; and, as for lending the money without security, you have had the security of this furniture, which you now say you are going to take away."

"Well, ma'am," said Sharke, "I didn't come here to you with you or with anybody else. I've given you legal rights and I intend to enforce them."

"Surely you will give us another week or so?" said Mrs. Byng.

"Not another day, ma'am—not another hour after twelve o'clock to-morrow. I said I'd come to give my ultimatum, and that's what it is, so now good day."

"Good day, Mr. Sharke. I dare say my husband will be with you before the hour you mention."

"Very well, ma'am," said Sharke, "but mind, it's no use his coming without the money. Fine words and promises don't keep my office open, and that's about all I have had from Mr. Byng up to now. So if he don't bring the money with him he may save himself the trouble of calling. Be good enough to tell him that. Good day."

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OUR OMNIBUS.

THE M.P.

Opinion has rapidly crystallised respecting the Irish Land Purchase Bill during the recess, and now it may be said with confidence that the measure is certain to pass with little alteration. The only quarter from which effective opposition could come was from the Irish Conservative members and their English sympathisers, but careful study of the bill and contact with their constituents has convinced them that it is an honest and workable attempt to bring the land question out of the hopeless impasse which Mr. Gladstone's legislation, and that alone, has brought about. Of the satisfaction of the bulk of the Irish tenants with its provisions there is no doubt. Even those who belong to the National League have been slow to follow Mr. Parnell's lead in condemning it, and any one who takes the trouble to read the resolutions passed at their weekly meetings will see between the lines that they are ready and anxious to accept it.

Another success which is now quite within sight is the passage of the New Education Code. This appears now to be almost assured, for with every desire to trip up the Government, the Socialist party have not been able to find any vulnerable point of importance. Mr. Mundella, who represents the fighting forces of the Opposition on this question, has expressed himself satisfied with the main details of the code, and there is no one in the Liberal ranks better qualified to judge of its effect. That the code will be popular in the country districts there is no question. It is calculated that it will give some £40,000 or £50,000 a year additional to the schools in the poorest districts, and these struggling institutions deserve everything that can be done for them. The code has also passed successfully through the crucial ordeal of criticism at the hands of the teachers, and apparently satisfies their more urgent demands. It must be a bitter pill to Lord Sherbrooke to see his vaunted system of payment by results dethroned, but after the report of the royal commission it was doomed, though few thought the Government would have dealt with it so boldly. Sir William Hart Dyke will take, as he deserves, the chief credit for removing a blot from our educational administration.

While honours are thus being prepared for one old Conservative whip, another—Lord St. Oswald, better known as Mr. Rowland Winn—is lying seriously ill from an apoplectic stroke, and though the latest accounts are more favourable, his many friends are most anxious about the result. The death of Lord St. Oswald would be a great loss to the party, as he has always been most active in local politics in Yorkshire since he left the House of Commons. It would, moreover, create a vacancy in the representation of Pontefract, where the seat is now filled by Lord St. Oswald's eldest son. The Gladstonians have recently selected a candidate in the person of Captain Wilson, who until not very long ago was an ardent Tory. The little Yorkshire town has had a chequered political history, but generally when it had two members, divided its favours between the two parties. In 1885 it rejected Mr. Childers, moved thereto by indignation at his hundred million Budget. An election just now would be more doubtful, but the Conservatives have, it is believed, a fair majority.

Mr. Mundella has fallen foul of Mr. Mount, the Conservative member for Berkshire, for asserting that he had at one time described the Conservative party as the best friends of the working classes. This, to Mr. Mundella, is unendurable, and he denies it roundly, adding, "I have never introduced any measure calculated to benefit the working classes, nor can I call to mind any measure introduced by others, which has not, at the outset, encountered the strongest opposition from the Conservative party."

Two quotations from Mr. Mundella's speeches, as given in "Hansard," may perhaps be accepted as the best answer to this outbreak, which is particularly uncalled for at the present time. In introducing a Factory Bill in 1874, he said:—"The right hon. gentleman (Mr. Disraeli) said with truth that the Conservative party had always been the friend of the toilers, and had assisted in reducing the hours of labour, and that he was personally favourable to every measure that was calculated to humanise the toil of the people." And of the Factory Bill introduced by the Conservative Ministry in the same year, he said:—"It has always been recorded to the honour of the party opposite that they were the promoters of factory legislation when the party with whom I sit were its opponents, and for this the working classes feel to this day that they owe a debt of gratitude to the party now in power." May 6th, 1874, pp. 1,744 and 1,769. So much for the value of Radical protestations.

OLD IZAAK.

I was pleased to note that at the last monthly meeting of the Central Association of London Angling Clubs, which was held on Monday evening and at which I was present, no less than twenty-one clubs were represented. The auditor's report and balance-sheet having been passed, and the action of the committee in sending five guineas to the Thames Anglers' Defence Fund unanimously endorsed, the important business of electing officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with. An election will result with pleasure that Mr. C. A. Medcalf was re-elected president, Mr. J. Kelly, vice-president, Mr. W. J. Wade secretary, and Messrs. Farebrother, C. Watling, W. J. Wade, F. Atkins, G. Watling, S. Cane, and Patman were appointed to serve on the Anglers' Benevolent Society Committee; while Messrs. T. Crumplin, J. Wright, H. Pateman, A. E. Evans, G. Jacobs, W. Farebrother, C. Watling, G. Watling, S. Cane, F. Atkins, S. C. Harding, and J. Cully were chosen for committee work, and Mr. C. Watling was re-elected visiting officer. Ten guineas was unanimously voted to the Thames Angling Preservation Society, and the price of the privilege tickets was fixed at 1s. 1d. the odd 1d. being for postage.

It was with regret I heard Mr. Wade state that, owing to want of patronage, the Brighton Company, had been compelled to cancel several stations on their line. To compensate this, however, as I previously stated, the company have added Ashurst, Hever, and Cowden to the list. I heartily join with Mr. Wade in the hope that the Brighton line will receive more support during the coming season, for I am sure I am speaking with the voice of those working men anglers who take advantage of these tickets when I say that this company deserve well of the angling public, and should therefore be supported.

An interesting item on the agenda paper was the enrolment of a new and promising society, called the Alma, which my readers will remember I mentioned a couple of weeks ago. The secretary stated that the rules of the new club were satisfactory, while the muster roll already totals some twenty-three or twenty-four members. This is a capital start, which it is to be trusted will be followed up, for there can be little doubt that the truly noble sport of angling forms one of the best and, from the nature of its surroundings, one of the most recuperative pursuits for the average intellectual working man.

Every week it is my pleasant duty to chronicle the fact of a large quantity of fish being turned into the River Thames, and surely never has that river been so largely benefited by the addition of all kinds of fish. One thousand fine yearling trout, which came from Winchester—Mr. Praeger and Mr. Armbruster—both of whom are Wagner worshippers. I refrain from naming the English candidates, most of whom are my personal friends, but I must say that it would be a national disgrace were any but a native musician

inches in length, and all were in splendid condition. Only one fish was lost, which shows marvellous dexterity on the part of those who officiated.

It is gratifying to hear of an angler acting as Mr. Claude Johnson did at Pangbourne a day or two since. While spinning in the Whitchurch Fishery Waters he landed a trout measuring 21 in., but as the fish was somewhat poor he returned it unharmed to the water. Mr. A. C. Poole, who was with Mr. Johnson, while fishing for trout with a small minnow and the single-handed portion of a split-cane "Bickerdyke" fly rod, had an exciting struggle with a pike weighing 8 lb., which, however, he eventually landed, and returned to the water in true sportsmanlike fashion.

The Killarney Angling Tournament, which I mentioned a fortnight ago, I am glad to say, was a success. Mr. James D. Curtey was first in the amateur department, and Mr. W. Morrogh was second, but owing to the disagreeable weather the bags were not large.

There are few anglers who are not acquainted with the familiar figure of Mr. G. H. Field, the popular president and treasurer of the South London Angling Club, but all the same there are very few working men fishermen who will entirely coincide with him in some of his views expressed in an interview with a correspondent of my excellent contemporary, the *Fishing Gazette*. One remark especially I must single out for adverse comment. Mr. Field says:—"For my own part, I see no great objection to a rod tax, although I would much rather see the anglers voluntarily support preservation."

It is well, I think, that Mr. Field inserted the words "for my own part." Mr. Field and other anglers of his class could, no doubt, very well afford to pay a rod tax, but the imposition of such a tax would, beyond doubt, have the effect of preventing numbers of working men enjoying their favourite pastime, which would be a great pity, seeing the beneficial effects of the sport. What would the hosts of some of our riverside inns (I mean those who cater for anglers) say to this? Their profits, I fancy, would show a considerable diminution.

Which again prompts the query: Should not these same hosts do something towards keeping the river stocked with fish, seeing what profitable customers anglers are? It would certainly be a graceful as well as a grateful act on the part of these gentlemen, could we hear of their aiding the good work, which would have the effect of attracting fishermen to their haunts and thus enable themselves to turn the "nimble penny" or shilling, as the case may be.

For the benefit of "A Constant Reader," who wishes to know if he can get any fishing in the neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells during the months of June and July, I may say that the nearest place for fishing to Tunbridge Wells is Tunbridge, where some very good coarse fishing may be had in the Medway. Accommodation is not "extra expensive," but very reasonable.

"Turkey" writes:—"Could you inform me of the heaviest pike caught at Birmingham and Coventry, or any where else?" This is rather a tall order, but perhaps some of my readers in the neighbourhood of the two towns mentioned can help "Turkey."

PIPER PAN.

The second performance of "Lurline" at Drury Lane was much better than the first. Miss Georgia Burns was less nervous and won a greater success. I doubt if this opera will regain the popularity it once held, the libretto, by Fitzball, being downright ridiculous in many respects. The chief personages, mortal and immortal, appear to be amphibious, and Count Rudolph enjoys himself equally when plunged "full fathom five" below the surface of the Rhine and when on terra firma. Absurdities of this kind are no longer to be tolerated.

The libretto is not only absurd, but ill written, with such rhymes as "home-bloom," "charmed calm." Much of the music is charming, and there are admirable passages in the orchestration, but the dead weight of the libretto crushes the opera; and although such melodies as "Take this cup of sparkling wine," and "Sweet spirit, hear my prayer," must always be admired, I found "Lurline" tedious. Ballad operas, unless of surpassing merit, are not likely to become so popular as they were thirty years ago, when "Lurline" was produced.

I look forward with sanguine expectations to Mr. Cowen's new opera, "Thorgorm," which is announced for Tuesday next, and is said to be composed according to modern requirements; the vocal music being free from detached ballads, and confined to illustration of the dramatic situations and action. It must be owned that in this respect we owe much to Wagner's examples in "Tannhauser" and "Lohengrin;" his later works are not likely to exercise influence of a similar kind.

A Wagner concert was given on Saturday, April 12th, at the Crystal Palace, and I was struck by the fact that the programme was restricted to the familiar selections often heard at the Richter concerts. There are, indeed, comparatively few things in Wagner's operas which are suitable to concert purposes, and I doubt if the additions about to be made to the Wagnerian concert repertory by Hans Richter will be sincerely welcomed.

The arrival of the greatest of female pianists, Sophie Menter, after some three or four years' absence from our shores, is good news for music-lovers. By the way, I notice that her baptismal name is often misspelt "Sophie." I have long been honoured with her friendship, and her letters are always signed "Sophie" Menter.

I was invited to the opening soiree on Wednesday last, of a new musical club, "The Ballad Singers." Many well-known vocalists assisted, but few ballads were sung. Probably the success of the "Meistersingers" Club led to the adoption of the title "Ballad Singers' Club," but Gounod's "Ave Maria" and Bemberg's "Invocation of Brahma" are certainly not ballads. The audience gave much enjoyment to the large audience, including a number of guests, who were "served at moderate prices" with refreshments.

The prospectus of the club states that "tea, coffee, ices, minerals, and light refreshments" are obtainable—on payment—and I asked one of the refreshment servers for some "pyrites," and then discovered that "minerals" were not supplied, only "mineral waters."

I regret to say that my lamented friend, the late Dr. Wylde, left no will, although one had been in preparation many months before his death. The London Academy of Music, at St. George's Hall, will be managed by a committee of professors; a plan which has been eminently successful at the Royal Academy of Music.

Miss Fanny Moody, the charming prima donna of the Carl Rosa Opera Company, is about to appear in new character, that of a wife. The fortunate winner of her hand is Mr. Charles Manners, the baritone-bass, who distinguished himself in "Iolanthe" at the Savoy Theatre, and also at the promenade concerts given last autumn at Her Majesty's Theatre.

For the professorship of music at Gresham College there are twelve candidates, ten of them English musicians, of whom the larger number are justly eminent. Two are by birth Germans—Mr. Praeger and Mr. Armbruster—both of whom are Wagner worshippers. I refrain from naming the English candidates, most of whom are my personal friends, but I must say that it would be a national disgrace were any but a native musician

elected to the professorship endowed by that typical Englishman, Sir Thomas Gresham.

I have much esteem for Carl Armbruster, although I do not think him qualified for the Gresham professorship. When we first became acquainted he was an amateur pianist, and at that time a terrible thumper of the piano forte. That he would some day break the piano forte keys or his own wrists was the prediction of Walter Bache, and I remember the roar of laughter from a gathering of musical friends when Carl was announced by a newly-appointed servant as "Mr. Armbruster." His piano forte playing has greatly improved since then.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

Several newspaper correspondents have lately noticed the appearance in Kensington Gardens of wild birds which are rarely seen there. In one or two instances the visitor had, no doubt, escaped from imprisonment, and naturally betook itself to the first bit of woodland. But it would be an extraordinary circumstance if this explanation accounted for all the cases. Sometime ago, when I was strolling through the gardens with a friend, a bird flew across at a short distance which we independently identified as a cuckoo. Now, cuckoos will not live in captivity, and in this instance, therefore, the gardens afforded refuge to a genuine country cousin. Perhaps it has come to be known to rural birds that there are charming spots in London where plenty of food and water can be obtained throughout the winter.

Some very interesting observations have recently been made by a seaside naturalist on the strength of the limpet, from which it appears that this very familiar mollusc is the strongest known animal but one in proportion to its size. After a series of careful and accurate experiments it was discovered that it required a force of 62lb., or 1,984 times its own weight, to remove it from a rock. Sometimes pieces of the rock came away attached to the shellfish. The same gentleman, having weighed fifteen fasting female fleas, found that each pulled, on an average, 1,493 times her own weight, which, though not so good a performance as the limpet's, is certainly not bad. The one creature which beats the limpet, and therefore can justly lay claim to the title of champion strong animal of the world, is a kind of cockle found in the Mediterranean, which pulls 2,071 times its own shell-less weight.

An obliging correspondent in the Central Provinces of India forwards me an account of the destruction of a man-eating tiger in the Hoshangabad district. It had carried off and devoured a native herdsman, when an Englishman, belonging to the survey department, hearing of the occurrence, resolved to either slay the slayer or be slain himself. By good luck he got a clear shot at the brute, and finished its career with a couple of bullets. On the same day, and in the same district, another English official accounted for a tiger supposed to be a man-eater, and also finished off her four babies. The natives in many outlying parts of India would have a very hot time of it with tigers but for the sporting instinct which nature has implanted in their white rulers.

Mr. W. Parker Snow, author of "A Two Years' Cruise in the South Seas," mentions, with reference to parrots laying eggs in captivity, that he had a sulphur-crested cockatoo for twenty-three years, which, during that period, produced sixteen eggs without being mated. The bird was given to him in 1853, when quite young, by some of the Australian aborigines. It soon got quite attached to him and his wife, and accompanied them in all their subsequent travels, meeting many remarkable adventures. When it did die (not from old age, but from an accident), the regret of my correspondent was naturally extreme, and he stated that even now he can hardly think of it without a pang of pain.

Mr. Smith, of Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire, who has often favoured us before with his observations, states that on April 14th, during the rough south-east wind, he saw two gulls flying over the fields directly against the wind and nearly touching the ground. This is unusually far inland for sea gulls. The same gentleman notes that he saw and heard the cuckoo for the first time this year on April 15th, the same bird not putting in an appearance last year till the 26th. "Querist" heard her at Horsham on the 10th and every morning since. The latter correspondent also states that it used to be a common saying in Sussex that "the old woman always lets her cuckoo out at Hesford," meaning Heathfield Fair, which takes place on the 14th. I heard the bird for the first time this year in Richmond Park on the 15th. Whether it has been heard there earlier this year I cannot say.

Among the live stock which are generally found in some part of my house, there are at present a pair of geckos, or wall-lizards, of Southern Europe. They are very curious creatures, both in their appearance and habits, and are easy to keep. Contrary to the usual run of lizard kind, which delight in hot sun, the gecko avoids the light of day and sallies forth at night in quest of flies and other insects. To enable him to progress up walls and other perpendicular places, he is furnished with a curious sucker-like contrivance on each toe which presses on the smooth surface and enables him to walk on it with a sure foothold. He is much more skilful in this way than the tree-frog even, and will run with surprising swiftness up a pane of glass. His colour varies, but is usually dull yellow or brown. His skin hangs somewhat loosely on him. As he is a nocturnal reptile, his eyes are formed in a manner rather similar to those of the cat, and while the pupil is during the day usually represented by a mere slit, it is widely dilated at night so as to enable the lizard to see his way about. On looking at and considering creatures like this, one is forcibly struck by the wonderful manner in which nature adopts and modifies her handiwork so as best to fit the work it has to do. Other lizards and reptiles are employed to keep down the insects during the daytime; but in order that the nocturnal flies, &c., shall not get off scot-free, the gecko is despatched, like a night policeman, to look after them. He is accordingly provided with a pair of eyes which see in the dark as well as the light. In order that he need not rely solely on ground nocturnal insects, he is given feet such as to allow him to climb walls and help himself to aerial dainties also.

THE ACTOR.

In fixing upon "She Stoops to Conquer" for revival, the managements of the Vaudeville and the Criterion have chosen an old comedy which has been singularly unbacked in London of recent years. If I remember rightly the play has not been represented at any West-end house since January, 1887, when it formed part of the repertory of Mr. Edward Compton at the Strand. Mr. Compton then performed Marlow, instead of his father's old part, Tony Lumpkin, which was assigned to Mr. Sydney Valentine. Mrs. Compton (Miss Virginia Hateman) was the Miss Hardcastle, whose part was impersonated by Miss Elinor Aikin and Mr. Lewis Ball.

Mrs. Langtry, it will be remembered, made her professional debut as Kate Hardcastle; but the most notable of the latter day revivals of the work was that at the Imperial (Aquarium) in 1879, when Miss Litton was the heroine, Mrs. Stirling the Mrs. Hardcastle, Mr. Farren the Marlow, and Mr. Lal Brough the Tony Lumpkin.

I was attracted to St. George's Hall on Tuesday evening by the fact that the members of the Old King's Club were announced to attempt the performance of a little known comedy of Mr. Gilbert's, "On Guard," a three-act piece which was brought out at the Court Theatre when it was under Miss Litton's management. This was in 1872, when the Court company included Miss Oliver, Miss Kate Bishop, Miss Maggie Brennan,

Mr. Alfred Bishop, Mr. Righton, and the late John Clayton. Even these excellent artists, however, could not blind the playgoer to the tenacity of the plot, which the author sought to hide by the smartness of his dialogue.

No such dialogue is written nowadays, even by Mr. Grundy or Mr. Pinero, but one cannot pass a whole evening agreeably in only listening to a war of wits. One wants to be interested in a story, and of story "On Guard" has comparatively little. Nevertheless, I enjoyed myself on Tuesday, the performance was remarkably good, albeit the work of amateurs. One of the ladies walked and spoke as if the stage were her natural sphere, and the gentlemen were all surprisingly good. The amateurs are positively beginning to run the professionals very close.

The reproduction of Mr. Wills's "Juana," curtailed and revised, at the Opera Comique the other afternoon, drew an audience which began by being curious merely, and ended, apparently, by being interested. Mr. Wills himself was a spectator of the representation, and so were Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander, Miss Genevieve Ward, Miss Harriett Jay, and other well-known people.

The surprise of the afternoon was the skill and ability shown by Miss F. Ivor, the performer of the title part. This lady is the wife of Mr. Leonard Outram, and, I believe, has had comparatively little practice in front of the footlights. I remember her in a matinée show at the Princess's, but I gather that she learned most of what she knows across the stage at the Lyceum, where, I understand, she was understudy to Miss Terry. I have heard she is a clergyman's daughter.

It may interest the reader to know that Mr. Wilson Barrett, Madame Modjeska, Mr. Forbes Robertson, Mr. G. W. Anson, Mr. Norman Forbes, and Miss Amy Grahame were all in the cast of "Juana" when it was first done at the Court Theatre nine years ago. Now Mr. Robertson, Mr. Anson, and Miss Graham are all "stars"—Mr. Anson doing his "starring" at the antipodes.

There is quite a rage nowadays for the old time-honoured drama. The piece which Mr. Irving is playing in front of "The Bells"—"The King and the Miller" or "Cramond Brig"—is just sixty-four years old. Mackay, the famous Scotch comedian, was the original Jock Howieson, and the play is a standard dish in Scotland. Mr. Irving himself appeared in it when he was in the stock company of the Edinburgh Theatre Royal (1857-9).

GENERAL CHATTER.

The next Board of Trade returns will be scanned very closely by the commercial and speculative world. Should they prove disappointing, there will be a general disposition to do what the snail does on the approach of danger—draw in his horns. Among manufacturers it is believed that, although immediate shrinkage of trade need be dreaded, neither does the outlook promise further expansion. If we could only keep matters as they are, we should do well enough, but all experience goes to prove that trade never stands at a dead level for any length of time. It is much to be regretted that the trade union leaders should remain silent about this critical position of affairs. They might, at all events, counsel the working classes to begin putting by something every week against the rainy day which seems to be approaching.

China has suffered an irreparable loss by the death of her great diplomatist and statesman, the Marquis Tseng. When he was in England I had the honour of making his acquaintance, and he impressed me as a consummate judge of mankind and its affairs. Tenacious as a limpet in sticking to his point when controversy arose on any international question, he nevertheless possessed the gracious gift of knowing when to yield with a good grace. A model of politeness, the marquis made friends of all with whom he came into contact during his sojourn in England, including the English servants at the embassy, who could tell many tales of his unfailing kindness and consideration.

An amusing bit of news comes from Lisbon. Some time back, the Portuguese Government ordered from an English firm a set of triple expansion engines for a new gunboat. The goods

FATAL FIRE AT CLAPHAM.

Singular Evidence.

Mr. G. P. Wyatt, deputy-coroner for East Surrey, opened an inquiry last week at the Crown Tavern, Lambeth-road, respecting the death of Mrs. Mary Ann Waller, aged forty-seven years, a widow, of independent means, lately residing at 85, Landor-road, Stockwell, who lost her life at the fire which took place there on Thursday, April 10th. Mr. J. A. Soper, solicitor, watched the case on behalf of the relatives.—Miss Mary Ann Fuller, the step-daughter, identified the body, and said that she was at present staying with some friends. About half-past six o'clock on Wednesday evening witness left home with a friend for the purpose of going to the theatre. The deceased came down to the front gate with her and wished her good-bye, afterwards locking the gate and going indoors. The only occupant of the house besides deceased at the time was a little boy ten years old. The gate was always kept locked. Witness returned about twenty minutes past eleven o'clock, and rang the bell repeatedly, but was unable to get an answer. She and her friend (a cousin) then climbed over the gate, and attempted to gain admittance through the window, but in this they failed. After considerable delay the front door was forced open, and the drawing-room was found to be full of smoke. The deceased was then discovered lying in front of the fireplace in flames. The wall near the fireplace, as well as some of the furniture, was also alight. The stove was an ordinary one, but was filled with asbestos, and heated with a gas jet. Deceased was subject to fainting fits. When witness found her stepmother she ran to the front, shouting "Fire! fire!" A police-constable, who was quickly on the spot, forced open the gate, entered the house, and attempted to get at the deceased, but failed. He then blew his whistle, and sent for the engines. No attempt was made to subdue the fire until the engines arrived.—John Peter Sheppard, the officer in charge at the Fernside-street Fire Station, stated that he received a message at 1.14 a.m. on Thursday, and an engine was at once despatched. It arrived upon the scene about 1.20, and it was reported to him that a lady was inside, but it was impossible to get her out. The fire was quickly subdued by means of a standpipe. When the deceased was found she was lying on the hearth rug, completely charred. The body was subsequently removed by Police-constable Neal, 55, W., to the Lambeth Mortuary. The whole of the house was damaged by fire and water. Witness could not account for the outbreak.—A person in court here said that he should like to make a statement. He was then sworn, and said his name was Frederick Sanderson, and he carried on business as a fruiterer, at 10, Market-place, Landor-road, opposite deceased's residence. He then asked Miss Fuller if it was not a fact that a gentleman and lady called on Mrs. Waller after she (Miss Fuller) had left the house, and paid deceased some money.—Miss Fuller: Yes, they frequently called and paid my mother money. They left about ten o'clock on Wednesday night, I understand, and it was always her practice to see them to the gate, which she then locked.—Witness: Well, a strange man was seen to leave the house at half past ten o'clock and lock the gate after him.—The Coroner: Then he must have taken the key.—Witness: I believe it has not been found. The whole case is surrounded with mystery.—Isaac Haines Stanley, of 87, Landor-road, here jumped up, and said that he knew the road well, and should like to ask in the interests of the public if deceased had left a will, and if so, in whose favour it was made. There was a very strong public feeling about the matter, and the inquiry ought to have been held in the immediate neighbourhood.—After considerable argument the coroner adjourned the inquiry.

The Adjourned Inquest.

At the Landor Hotel, Stockwell, Mr. G. P. Wyatt, the deputy-coroner, resumed his inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Mary Ann Waller, aged 47 years, at 85, Landor-road, by fire. The large room was well filled, and much interest was taken in the proceedings in consequence of persistent and alarming rumours as to foul play and mysterious events connected with the death of the unfortunate lady. The previous evidence showed that early on the morning of the 10th inst. fire was discovered at 85, Landor-road, and the deceased was shockingly burned. A lad 10 years old, who was in bed at the house, was rescued unharmed.—Joseph Henry Godden, the lad who was saved, deposed that he lived at 59, Seven Sisters-road, but he had been staying at 85, Landor-road. On the evening of the 9th inst. he was in the house alone with Mrs. Waller, the deceased. Miss Fuller, the deceased's daughter by a former marriage, went out in the afternoon to go to the theatre with a friend. Mrs. Cluny called after tea, and a gentleman came after Mrs. Cluny. That was about nine. Witness went to bed, and left these two people with Mrs. Waller. They came to pay some money. He heard them go away a good while after he had gone to bed. It was unusual to leave the gate unlocked at night. The key was kept on a nail inside the door. He was roused by an alarm of fire, and ran out without dressing.—Mrs. Cluny, 21, Camberwell-road, said she knew the deceased, who was a widow. On the evening of April 9th she went to see her at half-past seven. The gate was not locked. Witness remained with Mrs. Waller until nearly ten o'clock. The evening was passed in chatting. Mr. Cluny came for her about nine o'clock, and they both left about ten minutes to ten. The deceased let them out, but witness could not say if she locked the gate after them. There was an escape of gas during the evening, but it was turned off, and the smell went off. The only way witness could account for the fire was that deceased might have fainted and fallen into it.—Walter John King, a dairymen, of 1, Bedford-road, Clapham, stated that about a quarter past ten o'clock he saw an elderly lady unlock the gate at 85, Landor-road, and let a gentleman in. The gentleman had a black flock coat on, and, he thought, a silk hat.—Frank Grover, a confectioner, of Landor-road, deposed that, while closing his shop, about half past ten on Wednesday night, he saw a gentleman leaving Mrs. Waller's gate. He appeared to be locking the gate. He was dressed in dark clothing, and had a tall hat on.—A Jurymen: You are not sure the man came out of the gate?—Witness: No. The man went down towards the Clapham-road. He was not surprised to see a man there. The gate, he believed, was generally kept locked. The man appeared to be putting the chain round the gate. He did not seem to be acting in a suspicious manner.—Miss Fuller said she left the deceased was in the habit of consulting him on business matters.—Frederick Brisse, the brother-in-law, stated that he never knew the deceased to have any fainting fits. Some time ago a man named How asked her to lend him £200, and offered security. She therupon wrote to witness for his advice, which was "No."—Miss Fuller: Mrs. Waller knew Mr. How well, and had known him for years. She did lend money in the way of business.—Frederick Brisse said the deceased was in the habit of consulting him on business matters.—A number of persons then came forward and made a variety of irrelevant remarks and suggestions which amounted to nothing.—Miss Mary Elizabeth Brisse next confirmed the evidence of her cousin (Mary Fuller) in various particulars. Mr. How was a very old friend of the family.—The jury returned a verdict to the effect that death was caused by burning, but considered that there was no evidence to show how the fire originated.

To DARKEN GENT. HAIR.—Lockyer's Silphur Hair Restorer is the quickest, best, safest, and cheapest. Large Bottles, 12. 6d. Everywhere.—[Adv.]

COMING DIVORCE SUITS.

Important Actions.

Last week the official list of divorce cases to be tried during the ensuing sittings, which commenced on Tuesday, was issued, the total amounting to 234—above the average. In regard first of all to the O'Shea and Parnell case, it is not in the published list, consequently it will not be heard these sittings. Indeed, owing to many complications it is doubtful, whether it will be tried this side of the long vacation. Among the actions to be determined before the court itself is that of Dunlo v. Dunlo and Wertheimer. The petitioner is Viscount Dunlo, son of the Earl of Clancharly, and Lady Dunlo is better known as Miss Belle Bilton, one of the Sisters Bilton, the music hall artists. It will be remembered that after his marriage to the registry office Lord Dunlo went to Australia. Sir Charles Russell has been retained for the petitioner, and the case will be reached in about three weeks' time. In another case a well-known private inquiry agent is a co-respondent, and, in a second, an author and actor. What is known as the sequel to the "Highgate abduction case," stands as "part heard." Mr. Yetts, the respondent, obtained an adjournment in order, as he said, that he might call Florence Dexter, in regard to whose abduction he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. One of the applications for a new trial is that of Mr. Thirkettle, of Leeds, who alleged adultery on the part of his wife with General Francis, a retired officer of the Indian Army, and with his brother-in-law, Mr. Waller, a brewer of Bradford, against whom he claimed £20,000 damages. In the cross-suit against him, he was unsuccessful, and his wife obtained a decree nisi. The most interesting probable suit will be that of Edwards v. Earl de la Warr and others. It has reference to the late Lord Sackville's will, under which four maids of honour were substantially benefited. Some curious revelations are expected, and a large array of legal talent has been retained.

CUT DOWN BY AN EXPRESS TRAIN.

A terrible accident occurred at Victoria Station, Sheffield, on Saturday, by which one man was cut to pieces and another injured to a very serious extent. Two platelayers, named Moore and Smith, were on the line just outside the station, where there is a curve. One train was coming out of the station just as the newspaper express was entering. The men could not see the latter because of the curve, and in stepping out of the way of the former were caught by the express and carried some way up the line before being finally run over. After the train had pulled up it was found that Moore had been cut to pieces, his brains being scattered upon the rails and his body an unrecognisable mass. Smith was alive when picked up, but he had received fatal injuries to the back, head, and legs. He was removed to the hospital.

APPLICATION AGAINST A RECTOR.
At Beigate County Court, on Saturday, an application was made by the overseers of Charlwood against the Rev. E. M. Gibson, the rector of the parish, for a distress warrant to recover £73 odd for poor rates due in respect of tithe rent charge. The defendant declined to pay, and alleged that the justices had no power to issue a distress against him for the amount. The bench held that 8, Victoria, chapter 69, enabled an assessment to be made on the owners of the rent charge, but thought the owner might be assessed. The section did not give any right to sue him for the rate or provide any other process of recovery. A mode of recovery was given only by distress against the occupier of the land, not against the owner. They made no order, and declined to issue a distress warrant.

THE TRAM MEN'S GRIEVANCES.
An early morning meeting of the members of the London and Counties Tram and Bus Employers' Union was held on Saturday in the Workmen's Club, Fleet-road, Hampstead. Mr. T. Sutherland, B.L. (president of the union), took the chair, and was supported by a number of gentlemen. In opening the proceedings, the chairman gave a sketch of the aims of the union. He said the present hours of tram and bus men left them no time for the ordinary recreations of working men. So far as the enjoyment of social advantages went, they might as well be in the heart of Siberia as in the centre of civilisation. Many of the men had told him that they would, if they had time, join that patriotic force, the Volunteers; but their long hours left them no time for such duties. The married men in the employment of the tram and bus companies seldom saw their children out of bed, and were still at work when the men who had ridden with them to work in the morning and at the end of the day were returning home from places of amusement late at night.—Resolutions supporting the bill to give tram and bus employees shorter hours were passed.

THE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AGITATION.
Mr. A. T. Jackson, the jurymen in the Crewe murderer trial, whose letter was published a few days ago, has written to the effect that he proposes to establish a central office in Birkenhead or Liverpool for the carrying on of an active agitation for the abolition of capital punishment. He invites co-operation from all who favour the movement, and asks that offers of support may be addressed to him at 66, Market-street, Birkenhead.

Betty Gilby, aged 18 years, a servant in the employ of a lady at No. 67, Mostyn-road, Brixton, fell from a window, a distance of over twenty feet, and sustained concussion of the brain and other injuries.

The mayor of Dudley, Mr. William Squires, 80, has died, after an illness of five weeks. He was 53 years of age, a Conservative, and highly respected.

The East London coroner held an inquest on the body of Hamilton Knowles, aged 84, an unmarried lady, lately residing at 24, Northumberland-street, Poplar. The evidence showed that deceased had been slightly unwell through an affection of the throat for about a fortnight. On the 5th inst. she was left by her niece in bed in her room, and during her absence expired suddenly. The medical evidence showed that death was due to inflammation of the throat, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

Dr. Danford Thomas held an inquest at the St. Pancras Coroner's Court on the body of James Jones, aged 70, a blind woman, lately living at 20, Sandwich-street, King's Cross. The deceased had an annuity, and lived with some friends at the above address. Shortly after 8 a.m. on Tuesday, a fall was heard, and she was found in a faint on the floor. She expired before medical aid arrived. Deceased's brother-in-law Fred used to call on her at times. They were on good terms. The gate key had not been found.—Frederick Brisse, the brother-in-law, stated that he never knew the deceased to have any fainting fits. Some time ago a man named How asked her to lend him £200, and offered security. She therupon wrote to witness for his advice, which was "No."—Miss Fuller: Mrs. Waller knew Mr. How well, and had known him for years. She did lend money in the way of business.—Frederick Brisse said the deceased was in the habit of consulting him on business matters.—A number of persons then came forward and made a variety of irrelevant remarks and suggestions which amounted to nothing.—Miss Mary Elizabeth Brisse next confirmed the evidence of her cousin (Mary Fuller) in various particulars. Mr. How was a very old friend of the family.—The jury returned a verdict to the effect that death was caused by burning, but considered that there was no evidence to show how the fire originated.

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SENSATIONAL BALLOON ASCENT.

Perilous Position of Higgins.
On Saturday a large crowd assembled at the Fairfield Grounds, Croydon, to witness the ascent of Professor Higgins, "Hero of the Clouds" and his partner, Miss De Voy, "Queen of the Air," in a balloon for which they were advertised to make their grand double parachute descent 14,000 feet through the air. At about 5.30 p.m. the large balloon, which took two hours to inflate with gas, rose, and hitching his parachute to the side Higgins grasped the ring, and giving the word to let go, he rose rapidly. Miss De Voy did not go up on account of the cloudy state of the weather. Higgins shot up as straight as a rocket, but after a few seconds the parachute dropped from the side of the balloon, and rapidly filling with air, hung underneath Higgins still grasping the ropes. The strain now appeared to be too much, and Higgins let go the parachute, which dropped to the ground a few hundred yards from the place of ascent. The balloon, with the aeronaut hanging, rose more rapidly after this, and though Higgins was seen to make several attempts to climb up the side, his efforts were evidently of no avail, for when last visible to the immense crowd below he was seen to be still dangling at the bottom. He then disappeared among the clouds, and was lost to view.

Interview with Miss De Voy.

A correspondent immediately interviewed Miss De Voy, who was evidently labouring under severe mental excitement. In reply to the question as to whether Professor Higgins had ever met with such a misfortune before, Miss De Voy said: "Only once. That was at Snarebrook, 12 months ago last December. —Did he get down all right? Yes; but he had a balloon with a valve then. That, of course, would allow him to descend easily? Yes, the air would get in and weaken the gas, and the balloon would gradually descend. Do you honestly think he has much chance of coming down alive now? If he can hold out long enough.—He was in the air a long time at Snarebrook, was he not? Yes; but he held on by occasionally twisting the ropes around his arms and putting his hands in his pockets.—Has he a strong nerve? Very, and I have not much fear we shall see him again. The mouth of the balloon is open, and the gas must soon weaken.—Seeing how much distressed Miss de Voy was, the correspondent then withdrew. There was very little wind at the time of the ascent.

A Safe Descent.

Our Croydon correspondent says that a telegram was received late on Saturday night at Croydon, stating that Professor Higgins descended with his balloon on Squire Meadow's farm at Penshurst, near Tunbridge, Kent.

SENTENCES AT THE MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.

At these sessions, last week, Richard Henry Cousins, 40, described as a gardener, was indicted for having stolen thirty-six trusses of hay, value £4, the property of George Metcalfe.—Evidence for the prosecution having been given, prisoner stated that when convicted about a year ago on another charge and sentenced to ten months' hard labour, he understood that the present indictment, which was then hanging over his head, was done away with. It was unfair that he should now be brought up on that count.—The jury found the prisoner guilty, and several previous convictions having been proved, the learned chairman said Cousins had apparently been in prison for four years and five months out of the last eight years, representing seven convictions. It was men like him who made people so unwilling to try people who had been imprisoned. The sentence of the court was that Cousins be kept to penal servitude for seven years, to be followed by three years' police supervision.—Prisoner (being removed): That's rather stiff, my lord.—Albert Edward Warford, 22, a soldier, was indicted for breaking and entering a dwelling-house and stealing therefrom a coat and other articles, and the sum of £1 15s. 4d. the goods and moneys of George Tobey, and a ring, purse, and the sum of £1, the goods and moneys of Mary Ann Preston, £1.—The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to five years' penal servitude, several previous convictions having been proved against him.—Michael Ryan, a labourer, formerly a private in the 3rd Royal Fusiliers, indicted for stealing a watch and chain, value £1 15s., the goods of Benjamin Gillings, a private in the Middlesex Regiment, stationed at Brentford, and, having been previously convicted, was sent to prison for twelve months, with hard labour.—The chairman warned Ryan as to his future conduct.—John Barnard, 32, a labourer, was indicted for obtaining £3 10s. by false pretences from Rose Roseblade with intent to defraud.—Prisoner pleaded guilty, and a long list of previous convictions having been proved, a sentence of fifteen months' hard labour was passed.—Priscilla Harding, a young woman who had been to prison several times before, was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour for stealing a dress and other articles from a woman named Collins, living at Teddington.—The prosecutrix befriended the prisoner when out of a situation, and the latter took advantage of her whilst absent from home.

EAST MARYBONE FREE LIBRARY.

The Duke of Fife has consented to open the East Marybone Free Library, on Thursday, May 1st, at three p.m. Of the £1,000 which was required for its establishment £930 has been already subscribed, including a donation of £200 from the Dowager Lady Howard de Walden. The library will be supported by public subscriptions, which may be sent to Mr. Boulnois, M.P., and Mr. Alderman Frank Debenham, L.C.C., at the office, 22, Mortimer-street, W.

A SAILOR CHARGED WITH THEFT.
A sailor of H.M.S. gunboat Mistletoe, named Allen, a native of the Isle of Wight, was last week sentenced by the Jersey Royal Courts to one month's imprisonment, with hard labour, for stealing a fisherman's boat in December last. It was alleged that Allen had appropriated the boat in order to desert, but on landing in France he was arrested, and some difficulty arose with regard to his extradition, he being three months in prison before being brought back.

The Conservative Post of Berlin has denied the report that the officers in the Berlin garrison had asked leave to resign their commissions on account of the recent Imperial rescript against luxury among the officers.

A Reuter's telegram from Berlin says the Kriegszeitung of May 12th states that the Socialist faction in the Reichstag will declare itself opposed to the idea of a general suspension of labour on May 1st next. The factory proprietors in Goerlitz and the vicinity have agreed among themselves to discharge all men who are on strike on May 1st.

The members of the Muswell Hill Concert Club held their annual dinner on Saturday at the Green Man Hotel. There was a large attendance of members and friends. Mr. L. Cully presided, and speeches were made by the president and Messrs. Kennerley, Leamington, Vizer, and Wilson. Songs were also rendered by Messrs. Walker, Tillbrook, Greening, &c. Votes of thanks to the officers and committee were accorded.

Earl Granville has consented to preside at the ninth annual congress of the Society of Professors of French in England, which will be held on Monday, the 21st inst., at Harrow. Previous to the sitting of the congress there will be held a conference of the head masters of public schools in England, at which the head masters of Harrow, Eton, Rugby, Charterhouse, and many other English public schools are expected to assist.

How doth a little "Petrolite" Improve the washing hair? It gathers particles of dirt, and makes the hair soft and smooth. Try it all who try its power. How skilfully it does its work, &c.

MARY'S PETROLITE SOAP POWDER, a spontaneous cleaner, saves rubbing and scrubbing. Sold every where in lbs. & Four Pds. Case, 5d.—Works, Augustus-st., N.W.—Adv.

THE ELECTION OF POOR LAW GUARDIANS.

The voting papers for the election of guardians of the poor were distributed on the 10th inst. throughout the metropolis, and collected the next day. On Saturday a number of the results were made known. In many cases the Radicals endeavoured to import political considerations into the contests, but this rule was not generally followed by the Conservatives. In most cases the results have been affected by local and personal reasons. The following results have been announced.—Strand—Savoy Precinct (1): Willing, 126; Barrs, 7; St. Mary-le-Strand (1): Dodson, 229; Aston, 17; St. Paul, Covent Garden (3): Dart, 573; Hobbs, 407; Bridgman, 373; Bell, 347; Mrs. Evans, 238; Mr. Evans, 194; St. Clement Danes (6): Brown, 863; Potter, 800; Belcher, 763; Rough, 729; Andrews, 800; Hindley, 617; Emden, 516; Barrs, 444; Curtice, 364; Hornett, 221; Hunt, 214; White, 210; Creed, 201; St. Martin-in-the-Fields (10): E. Walker, 1,614; W. Challice, 1,595; D. Laing, 1,508; J. Johnston, 1,475; Margaret Panton, 1,329; Matilda Maria Evans, 1,273; T. Prescott, 1,238; Emma Stevens, 1,217; J. Ascher, 1,154; E. Bennett, 1,102; T. Waley, 1,087; E. Bell, 832; S. J. A. Potts, 763; E. Curtice, 745; W. S. Smith, 723; H. H. Barrs, 720; C. S. Lee, 679; H. G. Harris, 620; T. U. Turner, 620; F. C. Hunt, 539.

Croydon, South Ward (1)—Much interest was

THE KENNEL CLUB'S EXHIBITION.

The thirty-fourth exhibition of sporting and other dogs was opened at the Agricultural Hall on Tuesday, when upwards of 1,200 animals were on view. These comprised bloodhounds, mastiffs, Newfoundlands, great Danes, Irish wolfhounds, deerhounds, greyhounds, pointers, English setters, Gordon and black and tan setters, Irish setters, retrievers, beagles, sheep dogs, and an infinite variety of poodles, terriers, and spaniels. Among the bloodhounds, Mr. E. Brough exhibited Champion Barnaby, which has won all the great prizes throughout the country, and Mr. F. B. Craven showed Champion Cromwell, also a winner of many challenge prizes. The St. Bernards made a remarkable show. The most celebrated among them is Sir Bedivere, belonging to Mr. T. H. Green, which, among other prizes, took the hundred guineas challenge cup and gold medal at the Shefield Show in 1888. The Newfoundlands made a fairly good appearance, and the great Danes were a most attractive class. The Prince of Wales exhibited a couple of Samoyed sledges dogs, Jaago and Bosco, and also exhibited in the spaniel classes. Among the smooth fox terriers (bitches), Mr. August Belmont jun., of New York, sent his lovely little animal, Rachael, which he bought from Mr. Clark, of Nottingham, to compete with Vesuvienne, the property of Messrs. E. and C. G. Vicary. The judges, with some difficulty, awarded the prize to Vesuvienne. This is the first occasion of a resident in New York entering the lists at a Kennel Club Show. Amongst the pugs is one called Sensation, which is the smallest dog ever bred. It is the property

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A VILLAGE PRIEST
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Mr. Tree, Mr. Fernandes, Mr. Pitt, Mrs. Terry, Mr. Alles, Miss Ross Leach, Miss Moore, Miss M. M. Marston, Mr. Brooks, and Mr. C. H. Williams. Box-office open 10.30 till 12.30 (2.30). Letters where seats from 2s. may be booked one month in advance; also by letter or telegram. Pic Circle (unreserved).
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EVERY EVENING at 8.30, THE GREAT BURLESQUE.
Characters by Messrs. Frank Cooper, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shine, Lionel Green, Mr. Abingdon, A. Styan, Mr. J. H. May, Mr. Jack, Mr. W. Northcote, J. Northcote, Mr. Miss Mary, Miss Ade, Ferrer, Miss Kate James, Mr. E. B. Brunton, Miss Clara, 2s.—Doors open at 8.30.—THE MARRIED BACHELOR at 7.15.—Box-office open daily, 10.30 till 12.30.—The Theatre Lighted Entirely by Electricity.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

Sole Lessee, Miss GRACE HAWTHORNE, The Theatre under the direction of the Princess's Theatre.

MONTADY. Matinée, first production in London of Robert Borden's adaptation of Sardou's masterpiece, THE LORAS. To be presented by a large and powerful Company, including the following popular names: Mrs. Verma, Mr. Vernon, Leonard Hall, Charles Cartwright, Miss Dolores Brammer, Miss Grace Hawthorne, New and Elaborate Scenery, Music, &c. Box-office open daily, 10.30 till 12.30. The Theatre Lighted Entirely by Electricity.

GAETY THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, GEORGE EDWARDS, EVERY EVENING at 8.30 punctually, the Second Edition of the Successful Burlesque, RUY BLAS, AT THE GLASS ROUE. By A. C. Torn, and Following. Music by Herr Meyer. At 8.30, Music, with dances, new dresses, &c. Misses Nellie Farren, Miss Marion Hood, Miss Sylvia Grey, Miss Letty Linn, Mr. Fred Leslie, Mr. G. T. Moore, Mr. Fred Storey will appear. Full Orchestra and Chorus. On Monday, April 2nd, Mr. G. T. Moore, Mr. W. Gurney, Mr. E. Hendrie, Mr. J. B. Borden, Mr. W. Wood, Mr. A. Styan, Misses Jessie, Armon, &c. Box-office open daily from 10.30 to 4.30, commanding (Monday, Friday, &c.) Seats at all the galleries.

STAND THEATRE.

OUR FLAT.—The Most Refined and Amusing Farce Comedy, by Mrs. Musgrave. Every Evening at 8.30, Every Wednesday and Saturday at 1.30. Proceeded, at 8.30, Boys will be boys.

STAND THEATRE.—Children Home for the Easter Holidays should not fail to see the Funniest Piece ever written, OUR FLAT.—Matinée every Wednesday and Saturday, at 1.30.

OUR FLAT. rapidly approaching its 250th PERFORMANCE, and still the Public Crowd the STAND THEATRE Nightly. William C. Daniel Grover at every Performance.—STAND THEATRE.

CRITERION THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES WYNNDHAM, EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, DAVID GOLICK (Last Night). Mr. C. H. Wyndham, Messrs. G. Giddens, S. E. Watson, Mr. W. S. Gibson, F. Atherton, F. Kinney, and William Farren; Misses F. Page, M. A. Victor, F. Frances, E. Layton, E. Vining, and Mary Moore. Proceeded, at 8.30, Stage-manager, Mr. W. S. Gibson, and T. T. T. in preparation, the production of SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER.

SAVOY THEATRE.

Proprietor and Manager, R. DOVY CARTE. EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, THE GONDOLIERS, on The Stage of the Savoy. By W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan.—Doors open at 8.30.

SAVOY THEATRE.—Morning Performance of THE GONDOLIERS every Saturday, at 2.30. Doors open at 8.30.—Box-office open daily from 9.30 a.m. till 11.00 p.m.

TOOLE'S THEATRE.

THE BUNGALOW.—Every Evening at 8.30, by Fred Herter, The Play of the Century. Another "Private Secretary" — DAILY TELEGRAPH.—Proceeded, at 8.30, by ON TOAST. Doors open 7.45. Box-office open daily.—Matinées of THE BUNGALOW Every Wednesday and Saturday, at 8.30. Proceeded by ON TOAST, at 8.30. Doors open at 8.30.—Stage-manager, Mr. Edward Hollingshead, TOOLE'S.

TOOLE'S SPECIAL MATINÉE. of a New Comedy, in Two Acts, by John Ayres, entitled CHANGES, on FRIDAY, April 2nd. Messrs. A. Elise, R. Stockton, E. H. Patterson, J. Ayres, W. Arnould; Miss J. St. Anne, Miss Alice York, Miss Mary Collette.—Doors open 8.30. CHANGES at 8.30.—Box-office now open.

GLOBE THEATRE.

Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. R. BENSON. THE BUNGALOW.—Play of the Century. Another "Private Secretary" — DAILY TELEGRAPH.—Proceeded, at 8.30, by ON TOAST. Doors open 7.45. Box-office open daily.—Matinées of THE BUNGALOW Every Wednesday and Saturday, at 8.30. Proceeded by ON TOAST, at 8.30. Doors open at 8.30.—Stage-manager, Mr. Edward Hollingshead, TOOLE'S.

THEATRE ROYAL, Stratford, E.

Proprietor, Mr. ALBERT FREDERICKS. A West-end Theatre in the hands of M. Monday. April 1st, for the first time, only return visit of M. B. Howard's popular Company, in the most successful Drama.

THE MYSTERY OF A HANSON CAR.—MAY 1st, THE ARTHUR ROSEBURY OPERA COMPANY.—Doors open 8.30. COMING at 7.30. A. H. MARSHALL.

PARAGON THEATRE OF VARIETIES.

and EMPIRE OF THE EAST, MIDNIGHT, NIGHT, IDAY, and MIDNIGHT.—Comedians: J. Clever and Oriental Brothers Leopold, in Comic Pantomime Sketch; Forty Laughs in Twenty Minutes; an Original Realistic Sketch.

NORAH; or, Ireland by Night and Day.

NEW Scenery by Mr. W. H. Houghton, supported by Mr. Harry Hamper, Mr. F. Collier, Mr. A. C. Lilly, Mr. Frank Hall, Mr. T. C. H. Hill, Mr. J. G. L. Graydon, Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. G. L. Graydon.

MONTAIGNE'S NEW COMPANY.—Every Evening, at 8.30, Saturday, April 20th, and Monday, April 22nd, and Wednesday April 24th, and Friday April 26th, and Saturday April 28th, and Monday April 30th, and Wednesday April 1st, and Friday April 3rd, and Saturday April 5th, and Monday April 7th, and Wednesday April 9th, and Friday April 11th, and Saturday April 13th, and Monday April 15th, and Wednesday April 17th, and Friday April 19th, and Saturday April 21st, and Monday April 23rd, and Wednesday April 25th, and Friday April 27th, and Saturday April 29th, and Monday April 30th, and Wednesday April 1st, and Friday April 3rd, and Saturday April 5th, and Monday April 7th, and Wednesday April 9th, and Friday April 11th, and Saturday April 13th, and Monday April 15th, and Wednesday April 17th, and Friday April 19th, and Saturday April 21st, and Monday April 23rd, and Wednesday April 25th, and Friday April 27th, and Saturday April 29th, and Monday April 30th, and Wednesday April 1st, and Friday April 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ALLEGED DISGRACEFUL CONSPIRACY.

A Jewish Girl's Story.

At the Thames Police Court, Solomon Balbuski, 33, a hairdresser, of 26, Fieldgate-street, Whitechapel, and Jacob Schlamowitch, 22, also a hairdresser, of 149, Upper North-street, Poplar, were charged, on a warrant, with obtaining a sum of £14 from a young Polish woman, named Amelia Hyman, by means of false pretences. Considerable interest was manifested in the proceedings, as it is believed that a large number of young foreign Jewish women are induced to come to this country, and then cast adrift, or are persuaded to lead a life of shame. A number of well-known gentlemen, of whom Lord Rothschild is at the head, are now using every exertion to put a stop to such a state of things. Mr. Robert L. Ratcliff, solicitor, prosecuted; Mr. George Hay Young, solicitor, defended; and Detective-sergeant S. White, H Division, watched the case on behalf of the Criminal Investigation Department. From the opening statement of Mr. R. L. Ratcliff it appeared that the prisoners were charged with conspiring together to obtain the sum of £14 by false pretences from the prosecutrix. The latter was a native of Poland, and while in that country was employed as a domestic servant. She was in her last situation, at a place called Lods, three years. During the time she was there she became acquainted with the prisoner Schlamowitch, who was a barber, but after his engagement to the prosecutrix he became a soldier. A betrothal contract, in accordance with the religious forms of the country, was entered into between the parties. Schlamowitch then wanted to go to Warsaw to pass some examination, and before he went away he called on the prosecutrix, who lent him a certain sum of money for his advancement in that town. Prosecutrix had some conversation with the prisoner's mother, with the result that she refused to give him all the money he required, but advanced him fifty roubles to go to Warsaw. She afterwards received two letters, to the effect that Schlamowitch wanted a further sum of twenty-five roubles, and that if it was not sent he would be ruined. Out of pity and affection for him she sent the twenty-five roubles to him at Warsaw, and he acknowledged the receipt of that amount. Instead of the money being devoted to the purpose stated, it was used to bring Schlamowitch over to London. Shortly afterwards prosecutrix had a letter from him, asking her to come to England. That letter had, unfortunately, like others, been destroyed. She received another communication to the same effect, which talked of the large amount of money he was earning each week. In consequence, she made up her mind to come to London. Before leaving Lods she made the acquaintance of some people of the names of Lefekowitch and Balbuski. She had also letters of introduction to a man named Loden. He (Mr. Ratcliff) believed there was some doubt about the address of the latter.

Arrival in London.

At the time of her departure from Lods prosecutrix had a considerable sum of money in her possession, amounting altogether to about 400 roubles. She had laid out about £170 for her wedding trousseau; and on her arrival at Hamburg she had an insufficient change left to pay for a draft for a certain sum payable in London. Prosecutrix took passage by a vessel called the Gemma, and there was only one other lady passenger on board, and she was travelling first-class. That lady invited prosecutrix to travel with her, and paid the excess fare. On their arrival in London the ladies were put into different cabs, and prosecutrix went to Lefekowitch's. She stayed there about ten days, and then went to the prisoner Balbuski's house, in Whitechapel. She went there with an introduction, and prior to that Balbuski had been several times to Lefekowitch's. She was told by Balbuski that Schlamowitch would be there. By some means Balbuski found out she had a draft for £15, and eventually that prisoner accompanied her to a loan office, and the draft was changed. The money was handed over to them in three £5 notes, and it was brought back to his shop in Fieldgate-street, where one of the notes was cashed. The prosecutrix proposed that the money should be put into the Post Office, but at the suggestion of Balbuski the money, with the exception of £1, which she had, was deposited at a loan office in Fieldgate-street in his name. Shortly after this it was drawn out, in instalments in sums of £6, £4, and £4, by Balbuski, and prior to that he had obtained possession of the deposit book. Prosecutrix never had any of the money. Mrs. Balbuski made a suggestion to prosecutrix that she, being betrothed to Schlamowitch, should cohabit with him, and added that it was the usual custom in England, which was a free country. Prosecutrix was so frightened at the proposal that she left the house, and went to a room in Greenfield-street. After this she several times asked Balbuski for the money, but he declined to give her any of it, saying, if she wanted money, she had better go on the streets for it. Prosecutrix was then placed in a serious dilemma, but, fortunately, found some friends, to whom she related what had occurred. She was then taken to Rosalie House, a home of refuge for respectable Jewish girls arriving in England in a friendless condition. During the time she was in Greenfield-street Schlamowitch came and asked her for money. He (Mr. Ratcliff) would be able to produce evidence showing that, previous to the arrival of prosecutrix, Schlamowitch had told people in London that he had some one coming over from Poland from whom he could get plenty of money. It would also be proved that the prisoners had talked the matter over beforehand, and had agreed to share the money.—Prosecutrix, a smart-looking young woman, said she was now living at 26, Warwick-road, St. John's Wood. At the time she was engaged to Schlamowitch the amount of the money she had was put into the marriage contract. Witness then bore out Mr. Ratcliff's statement as to the loans to this prisoner, and added it was about three months ago that she made up her mind to come to London.—Mr. Mead remanded the defendants.

The Girl and her Money.

On the case again coming before the court, the examination-in-chief of the prosecutrix was proceeded with. She stated that she recovered £1, and the other £14 of her money, the product of a draft which Balbuski cashed for her, was taken by him to the loan office. It was after they left the bank that they went to the loan office. Balbuski took the money from her, and told her she would have to make the same marks as she did when the draft was cashed at the bank, but she was not asked to make any mark. She received a book, which she put into her bag. On getting to her room she placed the book in a basket. After that she went to Balbuski's house, and on her return still had the book in her possession. They wanted her to live in Balbuski's house, but she would not. Balbuski afterwards asked her for her book, but she would not give it him. He then took it by force, saying, "I will act as a father to you." She afterwards saw him at his own house, and on her asking him for her money, he said, "There is no book and no money." She saw Schlamowitch at Poplar, and told him Balbuski had taken away her book and also her money. Schlamowitch said, "Serve you right. You would not give me any money, and now he has taken it." Witness told Schlamowitch that she was in a strange country, and if he "threw her away" she would tell people. He threatened to kill her if she told any one. He then said he would go to Balbuski and tell him to give her money. Later on, in the presence of both prisoners, she asked for her money and book. Balbuski replied, "I have no money, and don't know anything about any money." Witness cried and said she must have it, when Balbuski told her he had not any, but she could have three looking-glasses. She declined to have them. He then said, "If you do not take this you won't get anything, and if you stand here a little longer you will have to pay £1 as well." She

told them she had nothing to eat, and asked them to give her a few pounds. Balbuski threatened that if she opened her mouth too wide he would throw her out, adding that if she wanted any money she could go into the streets and earn it. He also said he knew a man who was making £2 a week, with whom she could go and live. Balbuski then threw her out of the house. She made many applications for her money, but had not been able to obtain possession of it.—Mr. George Hay Young asked leave to reserve his cross-examination.—William Leveson, 2, Grove Villas, Grove-road, Stamford Hill, stated he was a dealer in hairdresser's tools. He knew the prisoner Schlamowitch. Some time before Christmas he met the defendant, who said, "Couldn't you recommend me a young lady to be engaged to?" Witness replied, "I suppose you want to obtain another 100 roubles from a girl to go back to Poland." Schlamowitch asked, "Why do you say that?" Witness said, "Because I know you robbed a girl in Poland." Schlamowitch answered, "She was only a—. I have a young lady coming over soon from whom I shall receive 600 roubles. Then I shall have my own shop." Witness said, "If she don't come over with my consent she will come over with somebody else's."—At this stage Mr. Mead remanded the prisoners for a week.

THE ALDERMAN AND THE MONEY LENDER.

Scene in Court.

At the Guildhall Police Court, Charles Beach, described as a builder, of Fair View House, Essex-road, Bromleybury, surrendered to his own recognisances to answer the charge of having obtained £20 by means of false pretences, from Mr. Lewis, of London Wall. The case has been repeatedly before the court. The accused was first taken on a warrant to Marylebone; then, on the score of jurisdiction, to Harlesden; and finally, again on the point of jurisdiction, he was brought to the City, and has been remanded from time to time, as it was stated that neither Mr. Ellison nor Mr. Lewis, the prosecutors, would put him in an appearance. Witness summonses had been issued, but Mr. Ellison could not be found. At the last hearing Mr. Lewis, jun., appeared, and said the reason why his father had not come was because he knew nothing about the case, and had never seen the defendant in his life.—Mr. Alderman Evans intimated that he must have Mr. Lewis, the prosecutor, to explain matters, and therefore issued a summons for his attendance.—On the case being again called on, Mr. Alderman Evans asked Mr. Lewis why he was not present at the last hearing.—Mr. Lewis said simply because he knew nothing about the matter.—The Alderman: But you applied here for process, and moreover, I have your cheque.—Mr. Lewis stated that the transaction was carried through by Mr. Ellison, who at the time was his manager. So far as process was concerned, Mr. Savill (chief clerk), when the application was made at that court, refused to grant process. Under these circumstances he did not see why he should be brought there that morning. He was not the prosecutor. With regard to the cheque, he did what many other commercial people did—that was to leave open cheques.—The Alderman: Where is Mr. Ellison? Mr. Lewis: I don't know.—The Alderman: I think you know all the transactions in connection with this matter.—Mr. Lewis: You have no right to say that.—The Alderman: Be quiet, sir. You know this: You lent Beach £20 as a loan, and he gave you a bill for twenty-eight days for £2710s. This is at the rate of 450 per cent. This is how you stand.—Mr. Lewis: That is not so, and you have no right to say it.—The Alderman: If you are not quiet I shall have you removed. I repeat, I should like to know where Ellison is.—Mr. Lewis: I don't know and I don't care.—Mr. Lewis was again cautioned to be quiet, as he repeated the question.—The Alderman: Do you prosecute?—Mr. Lewis: No; I know nothing about the case.—The Alderman: I should like to send this case for trial, but I feel sure no jury would convict. Therefore I dismiss the prisoner. You will know my opinion of the matter. I have no more need for your presence, Mr. Lewis.—As Beach left the court it was stated that he was arrested on a commitment order.

SINGULAR CONVICTION OF A CONSTABLE.

At the West London Police Court, John Brown, police-constable, 46, T Division, was summoned for violently assaulting John Barrigan, a bricklayer, of Starch Green. Mr. St. John Wontner defended the constable.—The complainant, who had a wound on the head, deposed that between eleven and twelve o'clock on the night of the 7th inst. he was walking with a fellow-workman named Taylor in Bradmore-lane, when the defendant shoved his mate down. Taylor got up and asked him what he did it for. The defendant said, "I'll soon tell you what for; you can have it again," and knocked him down.—The Clerk: How was he knocked down?—Complainant: With his fist. I said it was a cowardly shame to strike a man in that manner. He said "I could have it if I liked." He then knocked me down with his fist. A number of lads came up, and the defendant, with an oath, said, "These are two who have put some of your chaps away." They then set about me and Taylor. Taylor got up and went to the station. On the way back he heard some one coming behind sharply. The defendant came up and knocked me down with his staff, saying with an oath, "I'll report you." When I got up the defendant and the chaps were running away. I went to the hospital and had my head dressed. I went to the police-station again.—In cross-examination the complainant said he was not drunk. He did not have a fight with a man, and fall. He had never been turned out of public-houses, but he had been in prison for three months for assaulting the police.—George Taylor, a stonemason, gave similar evidence, and denied having been engaged in a fight. He said, after the attack by the lads he took his own part, and struck one. Mr. Wontner, at the conclusion of the complainant's case, gave an absolute denial to the charge, and said the story, on the face of it, was grossly improbable. The defendant never left his beat, which was 500 or 600 yards away. What did take place was that the complainant and Taylor, who had been drinking and were quarrelsome, met three men, the complainant pushing one down. He got up to inquire the meaning of it, when a row ensued. A fight occurred, the complainant falling and striking his head against some railings.—Several witnesses were called, who bore out Mr. Wontner's statement.—Inspector Fry said on the night of Easter Monday he was on duty at the station when Barrigan came in and complained of having been struck in the face by the constable. He was very drunk. He had not any marks. He left the station, but returned at half-past twelve with his head bandaged. He complained of the constable striking him on the head with his truncheon. The defendant, whose beat was in King-street, had been sixteen years in the force, and bore a good character.—Sergeant Adams and several constables proved seeing the defendant on his beat in King-street.—Inspector Mose said the constable was a witness against three men who were associates of the complainant. He also said the complainant entertained a bad feeling against the police, the defendant in particular.—The complainant was recalled, and said it was not true that he met the witness and had a fight. He had known the defendant for some time.—Mr. Plowden dwelt upon the fact of the complainant having gone to the station, and said it had not been proved that he had any grudge against the police. He could not act upon conjecture. He was very sorry to have to convict the defendant, whom he would have sent to prison had it not been for his good character. He fined him £5, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment.—Mr. Wontner gave verbal notice of appeal.

While cleaning windows at a house in Sherwood-street, C. Jeffreys, a well-known boxer, fell from the third floor into the street below. He was picked up insensible and taken to Charing-cross Hospital, where he lies in a precarious condition.

MURDER AT BRIXTON.

Daniel Stewart Gorrie, 30, described as a baker, living in Jessop-road, Herne Hill, was charged at the Lambeth Police Court with the wilful murder of Thomas Furlonger, by striking him on the head with an iron bar, at Nevill's Bread Factory, Milkwood-road, Brixton.—Mr. Sims, who prosecuted on behalf of the Treasury, said the deceased was found in the furnace-room with his skull battered in. Statements were taken from all those engaged on the premises. The accounts given by the prisoner as to his movements were not contradictory.—John Morer, Daniel's brother, Nunhead, yard boy at Nevill's bakery, stated that the prisoner was employed as a second hand in the bakery. He knew the deceased, who was called "Nabob," and he was employed in the firm as a packer. The men were usually paid on Saturday about twelve o'clock. The packers would get done and leave at half past one. The bakers would leave earlier. In the afternoon witness saw the deceased about one o'clock in the packing shed, washing and changing their clothing before leaving the premises. About 3.25 witness had occasion to go into No. 1 furnace-room, and there saw at the far end, near the coke hole, some one lying down. Witness ran out to the middle furnace-room, and the manager sent witness for the doctor. After the deceased was lifted up the iron bar (part of the fittings) was found under him.—Mr. Birn (to the prisoner): Do you wish to ask the witness any questions?—Prisoner: I do not, sir.—Police-constable 233 P said he was called to the bakery, and saw the deceased as described. He moved the body and saw his right hand trousers pocket half out. There was no money in his pocket.—The prisoner declined to ask the witness any questions.—Inspector Tanbridge, Scotland Yard, said he received information of the affair, and saw a number of the men employed at the bakery, and took statements as to their movements on Saturday. He saw the prisoner about midday on Sunday at Peckham Police Station, and told him it was a serious matter, and that it was necessary he should account for the whole of his time from twelve o'clock on Saturday, the money he had received and expended, and the persons in whose company he had been, and his statement would be compared with that of other employees on the works to test the truth of it, and give witness the most minute details of everything that occurred. The prisoner then made a statement in writing, which he signed. The witness identified the statement handed to him by Mr. Sims, who desired at present not to have it read.—The witness proceeded to say he afterwards took the statements of seven fellow-workmen of the prisoner. He also spoke to the prisoners with regard to a statement made by his wife. At two o'clock in the morning, when the prisoner was charged, he made no answer whatever. Witness, when he first saw the prisoner, noticed he had scratches on the back of his hand. Sergeant Fox drew the attention of witness to it, when the prisoner said, "I did that on the edge of the trolley, but he did not then say when, but about midnight he was examined by Dr. Gallie, and witness then noticed a wound in the front of the prisoner's throat. The prisoner said the mark on his hand was caused by hitting it against the iron head of the trolley, and added, "I can't account for the mark on my throat. I might have done it with my nail."—Mr. Sims said evidence would be given to show that the prisoner had made most extraordinary statements with regard to that and other matters.—The prisoner, who declined to say anything, was remanded for a week.

The Inquest.

Mr. G. P. Wyatt opened an inquest on the body of Thomas John Furlonger, 62, of 78 Tilson-road, Peckham, who was found dead in a furnace-room at Nevill's Bakery on April 12th.—Thomas J. Furlonger stated that he resided at the address above-named. The deceased was his father, and his life was not insured except in a club at Nevill's Bakery, where he was a packer. Witness never heard him complain of any one at the works. His father was a steady man.—Alfred Spurges said he was an engineer at Nevill's. On the 12th inst. he saw the deceased paid £1 3s. 1d. about ten minutes past twelve, when he was still at work.—John W. Morer, yard boy at Nevill's, gave evidence substantially the same as that given by him at the police court on Monday.—Charles Hale said he was a van washer at the bakery, and was acquainted with Furlonger. He corroborated the previous witness in regard to the finding of the body and obtaining assistance.

Mr. William S. Harding, the manager, said he lived in a house attached to the bakery. The deceased had been in employment there about fifteen years. When the body was discovered a short from bar, belonging to the hot water apparatus, was found close to the elbow of the deceased, who was fully dressed, with the right pocket of his trousers protruding about an inch. There were two marks on the wall, as having apparently been made by the iron instrument.—Frank Harding, a packer at Nevill's, left the deceased about ten minutes to two on Saturday in No. 2 furnace-room. He had just changed his trousers, and all he had to do was to put his coat and hat on at No. 1 side. Witness, standing in the middle yard, saw Gorrie through a window go through a back shed at the stable end. That was about ten minutes to two. Gorrie, being a baker, had no business to go in there, so far as he knew. Witness did not see him come out again. Two others named Spott and Sharville were with witness at the time, and they remarked that he ought to have finished work.—Thomas Ball, a packer, last saw deceased in No. 1 shed at half past one, dusting the windows before he had changed his clothes. Whilst witness was finishing washing in his staff, saying with an oath, "I'll report you." When I got up the defendant and the chaps were running away. I went to the hospital and had my head dressed. I went to the police-station again.

—In cross-examination the complainant said he was not drunk. He did not have a fight with a man, and fall. He had never been turned out of public-houses, but he had been in prison for three months for assaulting the police.—George Taylor, a stonemason, gave similar evidence, and denied having been engaged in a fight. He said, after the attack by the lads he took his own part, and struck one. Mr. Wontner, at the conclusion of the complainant's case, gave an absolute denial to the charge, and said the story, on the face of it, was grossly improbable. The defendant never left his beat, which was 500 or 600 yards away. What did take place was that the complainant and Taylor, who had been drinking and were quarrelsome, met three men, the complainant pushing one down. He got up to inquire the meaning of it, when a row ensued. A fight occurred, the complainant falling and striking his head against some railings.—Several witnesses were called, who bore out Mr. Wontner's statement.—Inspector Fry said on the night of Easter Monday he was on duty at the station when Barrigan came in and complained of having been struck in the face by the constable. He was very drunk. He had not any marks. He left the station, but returned at half-past twelve with his head bandaged. He complained of the constable striking him on the head with his truncheon. The defendant, whose beat was in King-street, had been sixteen years in the force, and bore a good character.—Sergeant Adams and several constables proved seeing the defendant on his beat in King-street.—Inspector Mose said the constable was a witness against three men who were associates of the complainant. He also said the complainant entertained a bad feeling against the police, the defendant in particular.—The complainant was recalled, and said it was not true that he met the witness and had a fight. He had known the defendant for some time.—Mr. Plowden dwelt upon the fact of the complainant having gone to the station, and said it had not been proved that he had any grudge against the police. He could not act upon conjecture. He was very sorry to have to convict the defendant, whom he would have sent to prison had it not been for his good character. He fined him £5, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment.

Caroline Gorrie, the wife of the accused, was examined in chief. She said the deceased was a respectable-looking woman. Although evidently deeply affected, she gave her evidence without hesitation, but in tones of voice so low that many of her answers were inaudible except to the coroner, his officer, and a minority of the jury. The others, as the depositions were not afterwards read over to the witness, remained ignorant of much of her evidence. In answer to question put by the coroner she was understood to say that her husband was a journeyman baker, and had been for ten years in Messrs. Nevill's employment. On the evening of the 11th inst. he left for work at twenty minutes to six. He went in that evening about half an hour earlier than usual. His time to return was about nine o'clock in the morning, and on Saturdays, when he was paid his wages, between half past one and two in the afternoon. Sometimes he gave her 3s. or 3s. 2d. sometimes more. On Saturday he gave her 3s. He came home about half-past two and gave her the money. He usually lay down, but on Saturday he said he had had a good rest on the previous evening, and did not do so. He went out with the witness, and they went out until about half-past four or five shopping. When he came home he washed and cleaned his

collar. The money he gave her was three half-sovereigns and three shillings. He asked for a clean collar when he came in, and said the buttons of the one he was wearing were broken, as he said he had had a bit of a scuffle. He said he had been at the Fox, on Denmark Hill, which was not his usual house; he also said that a man stopped him and asked him for money; he told the man to work for it as he did. The man was not sober, and he pushed him away. Witness noticed that he had a scratch on his hand. She asked how he got it, and he said it was nothing, that he had got it by rubbing against a fence. When out they had two half-pint glasses of beer, for which her husband paid. She did not think he spent any more money that day. She saw no more money in his possession. He got up early on Sunday morning and made tea, as he usual y did. He was sent for on the Sunday forenoon, and was ultimately taken to the police station.—At the conclusion of Mrs. Gorrie's evidence the inquiry was adjourned until the 26th inst.

AN AUSTRALIAN DESPERADO.

A Sydney correspondent writes that the aborigines have at last developed a man of mark. In the district watered by the Clarence, a not very thickly settled track near the Queensland border, a black fellow named, presumably for the sake of simplicity greater than is afforded by the native dialects, Tommy Ryan, is dodging the whole police force and a local rifle club that has turned out in pursuit of him, and, though he has been four times captured, has four times succeeded in giving leg bail for security. Tommy's first escape at the end of last year from a police escort was nothing very surprising, as the troopers were not aware what kind of desperado they had to do with, but his three subsequent performances qualify him to rank as a dusky Jack Sheppard, particularly when it is considered that the scene of his operations is the country between the three small towns of Grafton, Fairfield, and Copmanhurst, where everybody knows him and is ready to aid in laying him by the heels. The second escape of our hero, and that which first raised him to fame, was from Grafton Gaol early in January. In open day he knocked down a warden, bolted through the gate, seized a boat, in which he rowed to an island, and then swimming a broad channel, was lost in the bush. On this occasion he was at large for about a fortnight when two pursuing troopers stumbled at nightfall upon a hut in which he was sleeping near Copmanhurst. He awoke before they could seize him, and again bolted, but was overcome after a desperate struggle, and taken bound to Copmanhurst and lodged in the lock-up. On January 28th it was desired to take him before a magistrate, and two policemen entered his cell to handcuff him for that purpose. They had got one handcuff on when he flung his arms round the man who was about to clasp the other wrist, then disengaging one hand, seized his immediate adversary, revolver from his belt, disabled the second policeman by a kick, shot the one whom he had first tackled, smashing his jaw, scared off two women who endeavoured to detain him, jumped from a window, swam a broad and dangerous river, and disappeared. The police were left lamenting until Mr. Davall, a station manager, sent word that Tommy was working at his place. A constable, disguised as a stockman, was deputed to effect a capture, and Tommy, who was sitting in a hut unsuspecting plaiting a green hide rope, was surprised by the constable, Duvali, and a stockman, and after a desperate, and for a time doubtful, fight, subdued by a threat of shooting, handcuffed, and bound with ropes. The capture effected, Duvali and the policeman tied their man to a horse and set off in triumph for Grafton. On their road they had to pass a narrow defile near the Cangie gold diggings. They led the way through this, leaving the horse with the carefully bound prisoner to follow. Tommy did not turn a rocky corner so quickly as he might have

LAST WEEK'S POLICE.

City Summons Court.

THE MUZZLING ORDER.—A number of persons were summoned for contravening the muzzling order, and in one case the defendant pleaded that his dog was fixed in the centre of the van to guard the goods, and it was impossible for it to bite any one at all. In another case the dog was on the top of a load of flour, which was at least three feet above the top of the van, or some ten feet from the ground, and therefore the dog would be unable to bite any one.—Alderman Tyler dismissed both summonses. In the other cases small fines were imposed.

Mansion House.

STREET BRAWLING.—Four well dressed men, named Edward Brown, Alfred Patten, George Hardy, and George Barrett, were brought before Alderman Sir J. Ellis, charged with causing an obstruction by betting in the street.—From the evidence of two detective constables named James and Cox, it appeared that on Friday morning about twelve o'clock they were in St. Mary-at-Hill, and saw the defendant Patten and watched him. Several men went up to him, and handed pieces of paper and money. He was then joined by Brown and Hardy, and they conversed together, and several men handed them pieces of paper and money. They were then joined by Barrett, who remained in conversation with them for some time, but he did not receive any papers or money. All the defendants were eventually taken into custody, and on searching Hardy, Brown, and Patten, various entries relating to bets were found on slips of paper were found, as well as £8 10s. in cash, but nothing relating to betting.—The defendants, in reply to the charge, admitted they were in the street, but denied having betted or caused any obstruction. As to Barrett he denied the charge altogether, and said he was a respectable tradesman living in the neighbourhood, and was only on the spot by accident.—The alderman dismissed the charge against Barrett, and fined the other three £5 each.—The money was paid.

Marlborough-street.

A JIG IN REGENCY STREET.—Lena Vivian, who has frequently been in trouble for drunken and riotous conduct in the streets, and who only left prison on Thursday last, was again placed in the dock. This time she was respectably attired, and wore a hat trimmed with pink ribbon, and with a lace veil so as to conceal her features. At half-past two o'clock that morning she was found drunk in Regency-street, and amusing herself by shouting and screaming at the top of her voice. Afterwards she sang a bit of a ditty, and was indulging in a few steps of a jig when Sergeant 2CR rushed upon her, and before she had time to explain the cause of her merriment, she was standing—a well-known customer—in the dock at Vine-street.—Mr. Newton: Is that right? Lena kept her eyes on the floor, shook her head, and assured the magistrate that she knew nothing about it.—Mr. Newton (to the galler): What about this woman?—Sergeant Brewer said that on the 19th December he (Mr. Newton) ordered her to find a surety in £10 to keep the peace for six months for wilful damage.—On Thursday morning she sent a letter to him (the magistrate) begging him to let her out of prison, as having done four months of the sentence. His worship took her appeal into consideration and sent an order for her liberation from Millbank. She was let out in the afternoon, and that morning she was again in custody.—Mr. Newton (to the prisoner): This is the return you make for my allowing you to be released. Did you go home?—Prisoner (weakly): Yes, sir.—Mr. Newton: You will have to find a surety in £10 for two months, so that you will now complete the term of the original sentence.

A BUSINESS MAN'S GRATITUDE.—Mr. Lyle, chief clerk of the court, acknowledged the receipt of £45 from Mr. Richard Jones and Mr. James Ward, the executors of the will of the late Mr. James Forster, of Rutland Cottage, Brixton Hill. Mr. Forster, who died on the 9th of January last, stated in his will that all his "success in life had been mainly due to customers coming from all quarters of the world," he was desirous of expressing his gratitude in the manner likely to be most widely beneficial. With that object he had bequeathed from the proceeds of his personal estate a legacy of £50 to the poor-box of each of the fourteen metropolitan police courts. The £45 was the legacy for this court, less the probate duty.

Thames.

HE DREW A KNIFE.—William Norton, aged 45, was charged with being drunk, beggarly, and wilful damage.—William Smith, of Well-street, Wellington-square, said: Between eleven and twelve on Friday morning, I was in my office in Smithfield, when the prisoner entered and asked me to give him a few coppers to try and send a letter away to his friends in Australia, but he did not produce any letter. I declined, when he drew a knife and fell through a window, causing damage to the amount of 20s.—Henry Lamb, 20 H, said: I was on duty in Upper East Smithfield, when I was called to the last witness's office to take the prisoner into custody, and, turning to a witness close by, he said, "If I receive any punishment, I'll do for you when I come out."—In answer to Mr. Dickenson, another witness, who was in the office, and was called to eject the prisoner, said he deliberately drew the knife, and if he had not closed the door, he would have struck him with it.—Mr. Dickenson said the prisoner entered an office, solicited charity, and, because it was refused, he drew a knife and deliberately broke a window. He sentenced him to a month's imprisonment, with hard labour.

West London.

ALLEGED LONG TERM FRAUDS.—Mr. Curtis Bennett was engaged the greater part of the day in hearing the charge against John Charles Clarke, a surveyor, of 47, Bassett Park-road, Shepherd's Bush; Ivan Robinson, a provision dealer, of 139, Lillie-road, Fulham; and Robert Huntley, a solicitor's clerk, of 451, Old Kent-road, for conspiring together to obtain a quantity of goods from various firms by false and fraudulent representations. Mr. Sims, from the office of the solicitor, to the Treasury, appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Faithful, for the prisoner Clarke.—It appeared from the evidence of a number of witnesses that the prisoner Robinson, after entering into possession of the shop in Lillie-road, gave orders for goods consisting of provisions, grocery, brushes, hardware, sponges, and earthenware, and references to Clarke and Huntley, both testifying to his respectability and tact as a business man. Goods were delivered and sold to other shopkeepers, some being removed in a permanent basis for the use of Clarke. In some of the proceedings Huntley acted as a solicitor, using the names of Park and Biggenden, of King William-street, City.—John P. Biggenden, who resided near Eltham, was called and said he had not a partner. He had been receiving 3s. a week from Huntley for the use of his name.—Harry White, a cab proprietor, living in Westmoreland-place, Pimlico, deposed that he had assisted Robinson in his business. The prisoner introduced Huntley to him as a solicitor whose certificate had been suspended. Witness had been in the Life Guards. He was discharged for drunkenness.—Herbert Huntley, the son of the prisoner, said he was a house agent, and lived at his father's address. His father's profession was that of a partnership agent. Witness had been his clerk part of the time he had offices in King William-street. The Plate Insurance Company have offices at the place, his father being managing director, and Biggenden had offices there, and he acted as clerk to them through his father. He was at the offices. From there they went to 70, Finsbury Pavement, and his name was put up. He did not take the office, nor pay the rent. He carried on the business of an agent. The business of the United Kingdom and Mercantile Agency was carried on there, and his father acted for him. He collected debts. The witness was asked other questions, and he said it was a cruel

thing to call a son against his father.—Mr. Curtis Bennett: It is cruel for a son not to give a direct answer.—The witness refused to answer a question as to whether a certain document was in the handwriting of his father.—Mr. Curtis requested him to answer it, and threatened to take steps to compel him.—After some hesitation, the witness said it was in his father's handwriting. He also identified the writing in other documents.—Mr. Curtis Bennett committed the prisoners for trial, and allowed bail with twenty-four hours' notice to the police.

Westminster.

A BOY HOUSEBREAKER.—Alfred Rennigdale, 15, son of a shoemaker, was charged before Mr. Shell with breaking into the St. Luke (Chelsea) Institute, Onslow Buildings, Fulham-road, and stealing books and other property vested in the Rev. Gerald Blunt, the rector of Chelsea.—Between ten o'clock on the night of Monday, the 31st ult., and daylight on the morning following, the institute, which is furnished as a gymnasium and recreation-room, was broken into, the thief having got from a cab yard, at the back, on to a window, from which a pane of glass was taken. A pair of Indian clubs and books were stolen, and a great deal of damage done, a clock, among other things, being wantonly broken. Some of the property was traced to the prisoner, who sold it, and several varying statements he made to account for its possession were proved to be false.—Detective-sergeant M'Gowan said the prisoner frequently slept out in the cab yard at the back of the institute, and he had robbed his parents and been dismissed from a situation for dishonesty.—Mr. Wheatley, of the St. Giles' Christian Mission, now offered to send the boy to sea, and Mr. Shell said that perhaps that would be the best place for him. He was discharged on recognisances.

A BOUQUET SAVAGE.—John Allen Daglish, 37, well-dressed, living at 79, Limerston-street, Chelsea, was charged on a warrant before Mr. Shell with assaulting Mary Ann Wright, his step-daughter. He was further charged on summonses with an assault on his wife, and a lodger in his house named Annie White.—The evidence showed that for some considerable time past the prisoner had done no work, and had indulged in drinking bouts, during which he behaved with uncontrolled violence towards his wife, step-daughter, and lodgers. On Thursday he threw articles of a breakfast service and a crucifix at the women, and threatened to throw them out of the window. It was further stated that he had menaced them with a knife, and aimed a paraffin lamp at one of them so that they went in fear of their lives, and the police had been more than once called to the house in consequence. The wife said she wished for a separation, but did not require any money allowance from the prisoner, whom she had, in fact, to keep for two years.—Mr. Shell said the man was a regular savage, not fit to be at large, and, in addition to giving the wife a decree of judicial separation, ordered him to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for two months.

Lambeth.

ALLEGED PUBLIC HOUSE THEFT.—Florence Sparks, 24, barmaid, was charged with stealing £4. and sixpence, marked money belonging to her employer, William Charles Everitt, landlord of the George Tavern, Ralton-road, Brixton. Mr. Maitland (Mesars, Peckham and Maitland) prosecuted for the Licensed Victuallers' Society of London.—From the evidence it appeared the prisoner had been in the service of the prosecutor for about two months. In consequence of a suspicion, by the direction of Detectives Cloake and O'Brien, was marked and passed over to her for goods. On Friday evening she was taxed with the robbery, and then produced the marked money from a purse.—Mr. H. S. Sydney, who defended, said his client would plead guilty, but she had hitherto borne a good character, and she had done this on the sudden temptation.—Mr. Partridge said licensed victuallers were so often being robbed in a systematic and extensive manner that he could not lightly pass over the case.—He sentenced the prisoner to three months' hard labour.—Henry Wales, 23, barman in the same service, was next charged with stealing £4. 6d., marked money, belonging to his employer, Mr. Everitt. Mr. Maitland prosecuted in this case, and Mr. Sydney defended.—In this case marked money was paid to the prisoner, and £4. 6d. was marked found upon him.—Mr. Sydney cross-examined at some length and said the prisoner declined to plead guilty.—Mr. Partridge committed the prisoner to the sessions for trial.

A DISORDERLY HOUSE.—A woman named Butterfield was charged, on a warrant, with keeping a house of ill-fame in Evans Cottage, Lower Kensington-lane.—Mr. Pasmore (Mesars, Hicklin and Washington) prosecuted for the churchwardens and overseers of Lambeth, and called evidence showing that a great nuisance had for a long time existed by the means in which the prisoner conducted the house in question. She had likewise been previously convicted of a similar offence.—The prisoner now said she was guilty, and wanted the case settled at once.—Mr. Partridge ordered her to pay a fine of £15 and costs, or in default two months.—The prisoner said she was the legacy for this court, less the probate duty.

Southwark.

A BRUTAL FATHER.—Charles Finnimore, 40, was charged at Southwark Police Court with unlawfully beating and ill-treating his daughter, aged 11.—The daughter said, on Saturday, the 29th of March, her father came home and complained that the fire had not been lighted. She told him she had no wood, when he knocked her down, and whilst on the ground he kicked her on the thigh and on the body. It was not the first time her father had so knocked her about for nothing.—Mrs. Mary Hammond, a married woman, and she lived in the same house as the deceased. The prisoner's daughter had explained to her on Sunday that her father had beaten her, and witness examined her, finding a large bruise on her shoulder and thigh. The child had complained to witness before of the prisoner's brutality.—Mrs. Willmott said she occupied a room above that rented by prisoner, and on Saturday last she "gave him a bit of her mind," and told him he had no right to beat his daughter. The prisoner then threatened her, and she was compelled to lock herself in her room. The accused then returned to his own room and she heard sounds of blows. She also heard the daughter cry. The prisoner's wife committed suicide some three months ago owing to his continual brutality.—Dr. G. F. Farr, divisional surgeon, said he examined the girl and found a large bruise on the left shoulder, and there was a bruise on the left thigh about two inches in length. The child was in a very dirty and neglected condition. The blows must have been inflicted with great violence. Had she received them on the leg or arm they must have caused fracture, and if caught on the temple the result would have been very serious indeed, doubtless causing her death.—Police-constable 15 L.R. proved seven convictions against the accused for assaulting his wife, and one conviction of a month's hard labour for assaulting another daughter.—His worship sentenced the accused to one month's hard labour.

Wandsworth.

A JUVENILE PICKPOCKET.—A lad named Arthur Medcroft was charged with stealing a purse containing a small sum of money, the property of Elizabeth Osborn, residing in the Edgware-road.—The prosecutrix was in the Battersea Park-road, and felt a tug at her pocket, and on turning round she saw the prisoner making off. He was stopped, and had in his hand the exact amount of money that was in her purse which she missed from her pocket. The purse could not be found, the prisoner having, no doubt, passed it to his companion, as he admitted having taken it.—The constable in the case said the prisoner had been previously charged, but not convicted.—Mr. De Ratzen ordered him to be imprisoned for ten days, and to be confined in a reformatory for four years.

Highgate.

ALLEGED BRUTAL ASSAULT ON A FATHER.—

said to be "the terror of King's Cross," was charged on a warrant with assaulting his father.—The prosecutor said on the 25th of January last the prisoner came to his house at New Southgate, and he refused to allow him to enter. Before he could close the door prisoner got in, and when witness asked him to go out he said he should not. He sent for a constable, and when he got there the prisoner was requested to leave, but would not do so, and prosecutor attempted to eject him, when he knocked him over the umbrella stand. The constable and prosecutor then tried to get him out, but before they could do so he kicked witness in the ribs, knocking him against the wall. The kick half-dashed him, and for three weeks he was unable to leave the house in consequence.—In answer to Mr. Bapie, prosecutor said the prisoner had not been allowed to enter the house for five or six years.—Police-constable Bakewell said when the prisoner was being taken out he turned a somersault, and it was then the prosecutor was kicked. The prisoner threw him several times, and in the struggle the bannister rails were broken, and the prisoner aimed a blow at witness, which, however, did not touch him, but his fist broke a window.

—Prisoner said this took place some two months ago, but he denied striking or kicking anyone. The policeman struck him several times over the arm with one of the bannister rails, and turned him head over heels, and if then his father was kicked it was not his fault.—Mr. Cowdell, solicitor, who prosecuted, said the prisoner (who looked a sickly young man) was very strong, and he had taken five policemen to get him to the station. He had been convicted of assault.—Prisoner was remanded in custody.

Dalston.

THE LADY AND THE SALVATION ARMY.—A lady, who has previously made application for an order upon the Salvation Army to return some important documents to her, again came before Mr. Mead, and said Mrs. Bramwell Booth would not give up the papers which were so important for establishing her claim to some property.—Mr. Romain, who was in court, said that the only papers which the Salvation Army had in their possession were notes of pedigree, &c., taken by the solicitor.—Mr. Mead: Then why on earth don't you give them up?—Mr. Romain: Because they don't belong to her.—Mr. Mead: But what good are they to you clients?—Mr. Romain: No good; but I come here to explain, because there are so many unfounded complaints made against the Salvation Army.—Mr. Mead: I have continued complaints against Dr. Barnardo, and have no time to inquire as to their accuracy. Therefore, I hear the applications, and if they are not correct, it is open for the parties to write to the newspapers.—Mr. Romain was continuing his explanation, when Mr. Mead stopped him, and said that he declined to have cases fought out on ex parte application.

—Mr. Romain: I hold a retainer to watch all cases coming here connected with Mrs. Bramwell Booth.—Mr. Mead: And your appearance here is no good, unless it gets into the papers. This evidently respectable lady has made a proper application, and this respectable body (as I have always understood), the Salvation Army, can do no good by withholding the papers. You had better give her copies.—Mr. Romain: I will undertake that this shall be done.—Applicant said she had been advised by the Solicitor to the Treasury to take action against the Army for damaging her case.—Mr. Mead replied that she might do this if the papers or copies were not given her.

A GIRL'S STRANGE ADVENTURE.—Henry Johnson, 34, a bricklayer, living in Elderfield-road, Clapton, was charged on remand before Mr. Mead with being drunk and assaulting Alice Wood by kissing her.—The girl is only 13 years of age, and the prisoner was found in a drunken condition "kissing and cuddling her" in Mare-street, Hackney, at 1.30 on the morning of the 4th. Inspector Smith J. Division, said from inquiries he had made he found that the girl's father was a respectable man, living in Church-street, Chelsea. His wife had been in a lunatic asylum for twelve years, and some four years since his housekeeper was altered to have been most cruel to his children and led to the breaking up of his home. He appealed to Mrs. Bramwell Booth to help him with his family, and she got the child Alice adopted by a Mr. and Mrs. Sykes, living at Ing street, Heckmondwike, Yorkshire. She appeared to live happily with her foster parents, but at six o'clock on the morning of the 3rd inst. she suddenly disappeared. The police at Heckmondwike had since ascertained that she went to the worsted spinning mill where she was employed, and having received two weeks' wages, amounting to 10s., she took an excursion train to London, paying 17s. 6d. for her fare. Witness found that she arrived in the metropolis about seven p.m., and that she then endeavoured to find the house of some friends in Hackney with whom she had stayed some years ago. The prisoner met her about midnight, and seemed to have walked about with her until he was met by the police. The girl told witness at the station that her mother was to follow her a few days after, but that was untrue. The father had seen the case reported in the newspapers, and he was now in court.—Wood went into the witness-box and told the magistrate that he could not understand his daughter leaving her foster parents' home. She was always well treated there.—Mr. Mead told the prisoner that there was no knowing what liberty he might have taken with the girl while in his drunken state.—The police reported that he was a married man, and had twice previously been charged with drunkenness.—Mr. Mead said he could only deal with the prisoner as being drunk, and he fined him 10s.

PUNISHING A HYPOCRITE.—Joseph Willis, 50, moulder, giving an address in Campbell-road, Holloway, was charged, on remand, with sending his three children out to beg.—Prisoner, with his wife and children, were found begging in Oakfield-road, Hornsey on Good Friday. Afterwards one of the children was found suffering from the itch.—The prisoner said since the passing of the new Act he had not taken his family out to beg, and his wife added that she did not think there would be any harm in going out to sing about Christ crucified on Good Friday.—Mr. Mead said what the offence was was the hypocrisy of pretending that the singing in the streets was from love of religion. He sentenced the prisoner to twenty-one days' hard labour.

Woolwich.

DESTROYING TELEPHONE WIRES.—Ebenzer Ledger, 12, of 6, Robert-street, Woolwich; John Roberts, 11, of 2, Joseph-street, Woolwich; Charles and Albert Goldsmith, aged respectively 12 and 11, of 18, Siemens-road, Woolwich, were charged with stealing a quantity of copper wire, value £2 10s., from the telephone posts at Cox's Hill, Charlton, the property of the National Telephone Company, Oxford-court, Cannon-street, City.—Mr. Adler, manager of No. 3 district of the company, said that between the 2nd and 9th of April sixteen spans of telephone wire connecting London with Woolwich, were stolen from the portion of the line which passes over the sand-pits at Charlton. Altogether 80lbs. of copper, worth 8d. per lb., had been carried off. The company had ten or twelve subscribers at Woolwich, who had been seriously inconvenienced by having their telephone communication cut off.

The repairs had cost the company £50. The anony-mouse, who gave information to the police in February, and a close watch had been kept on the place during the Easter holidays, resulting in the prisoners being captured.—Detective-sergeant Day said that he and a local detective named Alexander, with Black, a London detective, had made inquiries and found that some boys had sold some copper wire to Mrs. Dandridge, a marine store dealer at Woolwich. He went to Ledger's home and accused him of being concerned in the robbery. He at first denied it, but subsequently said, "I went with three other boys named Roberts and Goldsmith to the sand-pits on Easter Tuesday. We tied a stone to a piece of skipping-rope, flung it over the wire, and pulled it down. When it was long enough we all four swayed on it and it broke. We sold it to Mrs. Dandridge for 1s. 3d., divided the money, and spent it in sweets." We had previously

sold some for 2s.—Detective Alexander deposed to apprehending the three other boys, who at first denied all knowledge of the theft, but when all four were confronted together, they told the same tale as Ledger had told Day.—In reply to the magistrate, witness said that Mrs. Dandridge said she had only bought 1s. of the copper wire.—His worship remanded the prisoners to the workhouse.

INQUESTS.

A BOY THROWN FROM A TRAIN.—Dr. Danford Thomas held an inquest at St. Pancras Coroner's Court into the circumstances attending the death of a newly-born female child, found on the Metropolitan Railway near King's Cross Station on Tuesday afternoon.—Joseph Pepperell, a plate-layer, spoke to finding the body at 1.30 p.m., lying against the wall of the tunnel, about 150 yards from King's Cross Station. It was wrapped in calico. He at once handed it to the police.—Joseph Roe, a police-constable, said that there were no marks upon the wrapper leading to identity. The parcel had evidently been thrown from a passing train.—Dr. J. A. Miller, divisional surgeon, deposed that he had examined the body and found it "bloodless." From an hydrostatic test he found the child had breathed. Death was due to syncope from hemorrhage at birth. But for neglect the child would have lived.—A verdict was returned that some person or persons unknown were chargeable with causing the death.

KILLED BY A CART.—Dr. Danford Thomas held an inquest at the Paddington Coroner's Court respecting the death of Thomas Edward Batson, aged 5 years, the son of Henry Batson, a cabinet-maker, living at 5, Offenham-terrace, Kilburn. The mother's evidence showed that on Wednesday afternoon she had occasion to go out, leaving the deceased indoors. Shortly after four o'clock she was fetched back and saw a crowd outside the Canterbury Arms, in Rupert-road, Kilburn. The mother said her son had been run over and taken to St. Mary's Hospital.—Albert Henry Brazier, a general dealer, stated that shortly after three o'clock he saw deceased with a number of other children in the roadway listening to an organ. Suddenly a milk cart made its appearance and the children made a rush. Deceased ran backwards, with the result that the horse knocked him down and the wheel passed over his neck.—George Parrott, an organ-grinder, said that several children were playing round the organ at the time, but he was not able to pull the deceased away from the cart in time.—Dr. Cole stated that deceased died on admittance to the hospital. Death was due to fracture of the skull and dislocation of the neck.—Edward Edwards, a milkman, 29, Cambridge-road, deposed that he saw the children and pulled up the wheel. He was moving off again when deceased ran against the horse.—The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

SAD DEATH IN HYDE PARK.—Dr. Danford Thomas held an inquest at the Paddington Coroner's Court touching the death of Mary Ann Hughes, aged 47, a domestic servant, lately in service at 69, Eaton-square, S.W.—Harriett Attwood, of 41, Star-street, Edgware-road, who identified the body, stated that the deceased was single and a native of Cirencester. She usually had good health, but at times complained of pain in the chest.—Mary Moat, fellow housemaid with deceased, stated that on the evening of Thursday she saw Miss Hughes in the scullery as she left to go and see her mother. Witness was crossing

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—Monday.

The House resumed after the Easter recess, the attendance of members being small.—Sir W. H. SMITH introduced a bill to make operative certain articles in the Education Code, 1890, which was read a first time.

The Home Secretary and the Crewe Murderers.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: In accordance with private notice, I beg to ask the Home Secretary whether he has any objection to state to the House the grounds upon which he founded his advice to the Queen to grant and withhold her royal clemency in the cases of George Davies and Richard Davies.—Mr. MATTHEWS: The charge against George and Richard Davies was one of cruel and deliberate murder—(hear, hear)—in which the jury based their recommendation to mercy on the ground of youth alone. It was impossible in such a case to give effect to that recommendation in the case of Richard Davies, who was all but 19 years of age, and therefore approaching manhood—an age at which responsibility for deliberate murder has been enforced, and, in my opinion, should be enforced. (Hear, hear.) George Davies was only 16 years and 8 months. No person so young has been left for execution for many years, although his guilt was undoubtedly clear. The conclusion I derived from a careful study of all the evidence was that George had acted under the influence of his elder brother, and that Richard initiated the plot and took the principal part in its execution. Under these circumstances I thought it impossible to give effect to the recommendation of the jury in his case. I am permitted to add that I had the advice and concurrence of the learned judge who tried the case in extending mercy to George Davies, and to him alone. (Hear, hear.)—Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR: I should like to ask the right hon. gentleman whether he has any evidence in addition to that given at the trial in favour of the opinion he has expressed, that it was the elder prisoner who had plotted and in the main executed the murder; whether the foreman of the jury who tried the case did not publicly declare that the recommendation to mercy was intended to apply equally to both prisoners; and whether he knows of any instance in which such recommendation to mercy has been disregarded.—Mr. MATTHEWS: I have already said I looked into precedents on the subject. I must entirely decline to enter into a discussion upon the evidence as to the facts. I had the whole of the facts under my careful consideration. As to what has appeared in the papers, that is a matter within the knowledge of the hon. member himself, and I must refer him to the papers for any answer on that point.

Supply.

The House went into committee of Supply. On the consular and diplomatic vote, in reply to Mr. Buchanan and several members, Sir J. FERGUSON stated that the negotiations in reference to the Delagoa Bay Railway had not yet been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. Also that the Portuguese Government had informed her Majesty's Government that they had received no information in reference to the rumour of a fresh expedition being sent against Mashonaland, and that the Minister of Marine had sent instructions for its withdrawal if it had been sent. With regard to the German expedition into Central Africa, under Emin Pacha, the German Government had, unsolicited, given assurances that it was intended to operate only within German spheres of influence, and would not in any way prejudice British interests. Ante Nyassaland, no definite arrangement had been come to as yet with the Portuguese Government. The discussion on the vote was carried on till midnight, when Sir G. CAMPBELL moved that progress should be reported; whereupon Mr. W. H. SMITH moved the closure, which was carried by 145 to 39.—The vote was put and agreed to without a division.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—Tuesday.

The Despatch of Business.

Mr. W. H. SMITH moved that the reports of the Committee of Supply and Ways and Means may be entered upon at any hour though opposed, and that the proceedings thereon shall not be interrupted by the operation of the twelve o'clock rule. After considerable discussion, and after an amendment by Mr. LABOUCHER had been negatived without a division, the House divided on the motion, which was carried by 194 to 102.—Mr. SMITH also moved that on and after Tuesday there should be morning sittings on Tuesdays and Fridays. The motion was debated at great length, and the Government was pressed to pledge itself to devote these morning sittings to Supply only; but Mr. SMITH declined to do more than promise that next Tuesday's morning sitting should be devoted to Supply.—The motion was ultimately carried by 191 to 100.

Position of the Telegraphists.
Earl CROMPTON moved that the present position of the telegraphists was unsatisfactory and their just grievances required redress.—The PostMASTER-GENERAL said he had undertaken to meet a deputation of these men next week. A new classification of the telegraphist department throughout the country would entail an addition to the outlay of £600,000 a year. He had appointed a departmental committee to consider the question of the sufficiency of the present wages and other subjects. He intended to take the provincial towns in the order of their importance, and to see whether the staff required strengthening.—Some further discussion followed, and the motion was rejected by 142 to 103.—The House was counted out at twenty minutes past eight.

COMMONS—Wednesday.

The Rating of Machinery.
Mr. WINTERSHOTH moved the second reading of the Rating of Machinery Bill. Questions having arisen as to how far machinery is to be taken into consideration in estimating the rateable value of premises in which trade, business, or manufacture are carried on, he stated that the bill had been introduced for the purpose of defining exactly what was to be rated and what was to be exempted.—Mr. HANCOCK moved an amendment to the effect that the difficulties of defining a satisfactory principle of valuation for the purpose of assessment generally were so great as to render it desirable that the matter should be dealt with as part of a comprehensive scheme of local taxation.—After a discussion of several hours duration, Mr. W. LONG, on behalf of the Government, left the question an open one, but stated that the Government would support the amendment, as the subject should be dealt with as a whole.—Sir H. JAMES urged that the bill should be read a second time.—On a division, the amendment was defeated by 239 to 87, and the bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF LORDS—Thursday.
The House met after the Easter recess, the Lord Chancellor taking his seat on the woolsack at a quarter past four.

The City of Paris.
Lord DE LA WARR gave notice for Monday to ask whether any official inquiry had been made with reference to the accident which recently happened to the City of Paris, whether any report had been made, and, if so, whether it would be laid on the table of the House.

Criminal Punishments.
Lord HANCOCK also gave notice for Monday next of his intention to bring under notice the inequality of sentences for criminal offences; and to ask whether the Government would cause an inquiry to be made into the subject by commission or otherwise.—The House adjourned at half past four.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—Thursday.

Biometallism.
Mr. GAORAN presented a petition from men engaged in the cotton industry at Hall in favour of an international conference on biometallism.

Similar petitions were presented by Mr. HOYLE from Heywood, Colonel BRIDGEMAN from Bolton, Mr. ADDISON from Ashton, and Mr. TOMLINSON from Preston.

Capital Punishment.

Mr. MATTHEWS, in answer to Mr. COBB, said he was aware that in the ten years from 1879 to 1888 inclusive there were in England and Wales 1,766 verdicts of wilful murder found by coroners' juries. 672 persons committed for trial, 373 acquitted or found insane, 299 condemned to death, 154 executed, and 145 sentences of death commuted. Concerning the last figure, however, 30 were cases of infanticide by women. He had no intention of considering legislation either with a view to abolishing capital punishment or amending the law on the subject.

Railway Fares and Tickets.

Mr. M. HICKS BRAKE informed Mr. J. ELIAS that notice had been given by the Board of Trade of the 1st of July next as the date for which every passenger ticket should have the fare stamped upon it. The Board of Trade proposed to adhere to that date, where any real difficulty arose an extension might be granted, but not beyond January 1st, 1891.

New Member.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE took the oath and his seat for the Carnarvon Boroughs.

THE BUDGET.

Mr. GOSCHEN rose amid cheers to explain his Budget. He said that once more he had the satisfaction of being able to present a balance largely on the right side. The estimates of revenue he had made were attacked as too low; but he was prepared to defend them. As regarded the expenditure, it was most satisfactory. The estimated expenditure had not been exceeded by more than the trifling sum of £116,000. He had estimated the expenditure at £85,967,000, and he asked the House to note that that was right to within £116,000. Some credit was due to the Secretary of the Treasury (Mr. JACKSON), who watched over the estimates with such care. (Hear, hear.) As to the estimates of revenue, the surplus which he was able to lay before the house did not come from any savings, but from the expansion of revenue. The receipts had exceeded his estimate by more than £3,000,000. He had been reproached somewhat for this, it being said that he depreciated the probable surplus so as to be able to put a more satisfactory conclusion before the House. He would be able to prove conclusively that this was not the case. (Hear, hear.) The defence was necessary, not so much for one Chancellor of the Exchequer as for the sake of his successors and the public generally. It was utterly impossible to forecast revenue amounting to £86,000,000 or £90,000,000. (Hear, hear.) One per cent. upon that total alone meant £860,000. Happily, during the past two or three years they had enjoyed a period of real prosperity, and as a result of this the estimates in some respects showed a very remarkable elasticity. Nearly two and a half millions out of the surplus of three and a quarter millions was due to extraordinary circumstances. The greater part of this two and a half millions was due to the extraordinary rush to alcohol. (Laughter.) The increase in the consumption of alcohol during the past year was astonishing, as it exceeded £1,800,000. If he had forecasted such an increase he would have been considered either a lunatic or a libeller of the consuming classes. Analysing the past year's revenue he said the net receipt from all comestible articles except spirits, wine, and beer had been £14,480,000, and with very few exceptions his estimate had proved correct. The net receipts from alcoholic liquors had been £23,265,000, as compared with an estimate of £27,430,000. The beer duty had produced £270,000 in excess of the estimate, the duty on foreign spirits £421,000, and upon home spirits £1,100,000, the drink bill as a whole producing £1,800,000 in excess of his estimate. In drink alone the revenue was under-estimated last year. All classes seemed to have combined in toasting the prosperity of the country. He called special attention to that extraordinary circumstance, which would be deplored, and which placed upon the Government and the House an increasing liability to deal with the question of the consumption of alcoholic liquors. Of all the beverages in the world the one that showed the greatest increase last year was rum. (Laughter.) He had taken some pains to find out who drank the rum, and he was told it was mainly at the seaport towns. The consumption of rum had increased 18 per cent. in the last financial year; British spirits showed an increased consumption of 7 per cent.; brandy had increased some 6 per cent.; and other spirits nearly 5 per cent. He could not exaggerate the impression that these figures made upon him. The more he looked into them the more extraordinary they seemed to be. The whole of the rum consumed in small public-house quantities in 1888 in the United Kingdom was 245,000,000 drams, which had increased by 30,000,000 drams during the present year. (Laughter.) It was an extraordinary historical fact that in 1875-6, the greatest drinking year on record, there was precisely the same rush in exactly the same proportions in the different classes of spirits. The consumers of wine followed in the wake of the consumers of beer, and the increased prosperity unfortunately meant a great increase in the consumption of alcoholic liquors. Wine had been steadily falling for years, but in 1888 it increased 10 per cent. in the amount consumed. It was said that the impost on beer would lead to its adulteration, but anyhow it had not affected the taste, for its consumption had increased 4 per cent. He had now explained how he accounted for the surplus. Turning from the sensational to the ordinary figures of the Budget there was a decrease of £17,500 compared with the estimate on coffee, chicory, and cocoa, on dried fruits an increase of £39,000, foreign spirits an increase of £421,000, and an increase in tea of £220,000; tobacco had increased by £152,000. The total receipts for excise were £24,132,000, against an estimate of £22,370,000. As to the death duties, the new estate duty had yielded £78,400, against an estimate of £90,000. Looking at what was called the uncertainty of death, it was remarkable how nearly these figures were always estimated. General stamps had increased by £257,000, and the tax on the promotion of companies yielded £290,000, against an estimate of £180,000. In the last quarter of the year there had been a check in trade, and caution would be required in estimating the general stamp receipts. Post Office receipts had exceeded the estimate of £9,000,000 by £100,000, and telegraphic receipts exceeded the £2,230,000 estimate by £90,000. There was a windfall of £774,000 during the year due to the increased profit of the limit on the circulation of silver. At one time there was a scarcity of silver. The Bank of England charged 1 per cent. on its conveyance to the provinces, and bankers would not pay this. He made the infinitesimal sacrifice of ordering this to be withdrawn, and at once there was a flow of silver. (Hear, hear.) The total amount issued was £3,304,000. (Hear, hear.) The result of the past year's expenditure and revenue was a realised surplus last year of £2,221,000. (Hear, hear.) He was also able to give a satisfactory account of another important department of finance for last year—the general reduction of the National Debt. Our liabilities had been diminished during the last three years by leaps and bounds. In the two previous years the reduction had been £15,000,000, and he had more than kept up that average for the past year, for he was able to show a reduction of upwards of £20,000,000. The total reduction was £23,295,000; and adding the previous two years the debt was reduced in three years by the grand total of £23,325,000—the largest amount ever reduced in three consecutive years at any time of the debt. He next explained the result of the conversion of the stock. The amount that had to be specially dealt with was £21,000,000. With regard to the unfunded debt it amounted on March 31st, 1888, to £1,600,000, but at the present time it

amounted to £25,500,000, or an increase of liability towards the public in floating securities of £9,500,000. There were other increases, however, which, while diminishing the permanent debt enormously, had also decreased their liability towards the public. He calculated the whole expenditure for the ordinary services at £86,627,000, as against £86,083,000, an excess of £544,000. The chief cause of the excess was the Army estimates. In forming the estimates of revenue for the coming year he had made many inquiries as to the prospects of trade, industry, and commercial activity, and he was bound to say the answers he had received recommended caution rather than sanguineness. (Cheers.) Wages were larger, but they might not be continuous, and he had therefore to frame the estimates with caution, but he had not framed them in a pessimistic spirit. On coffee he did not expect an increase, it would be estimated at £3,000 less and cocoa at £3,000 more; dried fruits an increase of £14,000, tobacco an increase of £200,000. As to tea he assumed that 10,000,000 lbs. of China tea would be displaced by 7,000,000 lbs. of Indian tea. Looking to this and other facts, he would add about £220,000 on the estimate of tea. The total receipts from customs would probably be £20,836,000. With regard to the excise they were justified in looking to a further expansion and would estimate the total at £24,180,000. On general stamps he felt bound to fix the receipt at £26,140,000. The total income from death duties, probate, &c., would be £13,642,000, against £13,040,000. With regard to that interesting item, the property and income-tax, he placed it at £12,300,000, or £230,000 more than last year. The Post Office would yield £9,750,000, or £300,000 more, and the telegraphs £2,470,000, or £150,000 more than last year. Taking the taxed and untaxed receipts together, there was a total of £90,400,000 against £89,304,000 last year. He would have a balance in the year for which he was estimating of £3,549,000. This he had to dispose of.

Disposal of the Surplus.

The proposed expenditure on barrack accommodation was £4,000,000, of which £300,000 was the maximum that could be spent this year. That left the surplus at £3,240,000. Seeing the decision of the House respecting the equipment of Volunteers, the Government had decided to accept that decision, and set aside £100,000 for that purpose. Every increase to the Volunteer grant must involve Government control. As to the disposal of the balance, he must sit back upon the lid of the Treasury chest as regards artistic, educational, and other extravagant demands. They did, however, propose, if they could persuade other parties to do so, to deal with the postage to India and our colonies, and reduce all rates, by whatever route, to 2d.—not ocean postage alone, but by the quickest route. They must, however, have the hearty co-operation of the colonies. The loss thus incurred would be £50,000 in the remainder of this present year. The tax on apprentices' agreements, now in some cases £5. for every 25, would in future be in no case over 2s. 6d. Death insurance policies would in future pay the same tax as other policies. Another proposed change was in the remission of duties on gold and silver plate. The greatest amount paid on gold plate was paid on that most necessary article of civilisation, namely, wedding rings. He therefore proposed no drawback on gold plate. The duties on gold and silver now amounted to £80,000 a year, and he proposed to abolish these duties and to add a sum of £120,000 as drawbacks. This £120,000 would be the maximum the State would have to pay. Dealing with the question between direct and indirect taxation, how, asked Mr. GOSCHEN, had the surplus been amassed? They owed the greater portion, nearly £22,000,000, to indirect taxation. The Government had, therefore, decided that the relief of indirect taxation should be the chief purpose of the surplus. There would be a reduction of 2d. in the pound on tea, that would take £1,500,000. Another remission would be the duty on currants, which is now 7s. per cwt., and it would be reduced to 2s. per cwt., which would mean a loss of £210,000. Greece was prepared to reduce her tariff substantially as a quid pro quo on cotton goods, linens, indigo, &c., so that British goods will pay £250,000 to £200,000 less than formerly. This was why he chose currants. As to the beer duty, he last year increased it practically by 3d. It was prepared to part with this additional 3d.—an item of imperial revenue which would represent £386,000. He proposed to reduce the duty on houses between 2d. and 2s. 6d. on houses between £40 and £50 per year to 4d. and 6d., which would dispose of £540,000. He would see that arrangements should be made by a system of registration to deal with the grievance of lodgings-house keepers. He also proposed to extend the definition of structural separation in the case of houses occupied as tenements by the working classes, and allow houses of above £200 rental to be treated as those below £200, and to be exempted. This left £233,000 balance, and this margin was as small as the circumstances made desirable. He wanted to do something in aid of local taxation, and for that purpose he proposed to impose £150,000; to the local authorities for the purchase of houses, £350,000, and the remainder, £233,000, for reinforcing the funds of the county councils. The Government also proposed to make provision for the suspension of the issue of new licences, and he trusted the Government would have the assistance of the House in trying to reduce the consumption of the drink of the country.

Sir W. HANCOCK congratulated Mr. GOSCHEN on the satisfactory result of the year's finances, but

contended that the Government should have done something to redress the inequality between the taxation on real and personal property. He complained that not a word had been said as to what was to be done in assisting education, and declared that the Government had thrown away the "plum" out of which education could be assisted.—After discussion, in which Sir E. FOWLES and Sir R. LETHBRIDGE spoke of the Budget as a temperance one, and Mr. BARTLEY thought it a favourable Budget to the poorer classes.—Mr. GOSCHEN, in reply to various questions, stated that the Government meant to deal with the whole education question next year. He considered the Government committed to it, and he would have to find the necessary funds for that purpose. As to the currency, he reserved himself on the question of £21 notes, but there were questions connected with the currency that he would be glad to deal with if they were in his power. The tea duty would be reduced on and after May 1st.—Mr. LABOUCHER ridiculed the Budget.—Some of the Budget resolutions were agreed to, and the House adjourned at 12.30.

PANIC AT BARNUM'S SHOW.

Telegraphing from New York, a correspondent states that two exciting incidents have occurred at Barnum's Circus. One of the trapze performers fell a distance of twenty-five feet and dislocated both thighs. In the four-horse chariot race one team became uncontrollable, and dashed round the track a dozen times before the horses could be controlled. A scene of panic occurred, which threatened for a time to become serious.

Liver Complaints.—Dr. KING'S Dandelion and Quinine Liver Pills, without mercury, are a parent remedy. They perform all the benefits of mercury, without any of its disadvantages and dangers. Dr. KING'S Pills remove all liver and stomach complaints, pleurisy, rheumatism, heart disease, &c., &c. They are a safe, reliable, and efficacious medicine. Sold in boxes of 100.

THE MYSTERIOUS MURDER IN DENMARK.

LEICESTER-SQUARE TRAGEDY.

The Inquest.

The corpse of the messenger Meyer, who was murdered by the soap manufacturer, Philipsen, at Copenhagen on January 7th, has been found at New York in a casket, addressed to Boreford Brothers, Racine. It had been detained at the Custom House for the non-payment of the Customs dues. The casket arrived by Wells Fargo's express on the steamship *Thingvalla* on February 6th. Although it was marked "sample," to secure a free passage, the appraiser removed the bung, and took a portion of the contents, which, upon examination, proved to be lime. Thereupon it was classed as a chemical compound, upon which the duty is fixed at two and a quarter dollars.

As correspondence failed to discover the consignee to whom it was ostensibly sent, the casket was detained without the least suspicion as to its real contents. Nothing transpired for months.

When an inquiry came by cable from Copenhagen, the head of the casket was removed, and disclosed the body of a middle-aged man, with brown hair and beard, and wearing a plain gold ring on the second finger of the right hand. It was hermetically sealed from the air by the plaster. It will probably be returned to Denmark for evidence of identity; the remains will be easily recognisable.

A Copenhagen correspondent telegraphs:—The murderer seems but little affected by his position.

A gentleman to whom I spoke told me that a few days after Philipsen committed the murder, my informant played cards with him at the residence of a Ministerial official, and nothing unusual was observed in Philipsen's manner.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AT THE WEST-END.

At the Marylebone Police Court, James THORNTON, 33, a clerk, living in Shireland-road, Paddington, was charged, on remand, with attempting to murder his sister-in-law, Olivia THORNTON, by cutting her throat. The prosecutrix, who looked very pale and seemed very weak and ill, now appeared and gave evidence. She said she and her husband resided at Chipping-ham Gardens, Kilburn Park-road. The prisoner was her brother-in-law. About half past four on Monday afternoon, the 7th inst., she was serving in her shop, when the prisoner entered. Her husband had forbidden the prisoner coming there, so she told him he had better go out. The prisoner replied that he would not be turned "icy cold." He then struck her, and knocked her down in front of the fireplace. She fell on her back. He knelt on her. With his left hand he held her hands down, and with his right hand commenced cutting her throat with his penknife. She begged him to let her get up, and not kill her. She managed to knock him off her into the fireplace. She sprang to her feet and rushed to the door, and called Mrs. BANKS, a lodger in the house. She was just able to tell her

"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

Sir Edwin Arnold tells us that there are very many Japanese ladies who understand English.

At last it appears that the Thieves Bill is to be tightened by aban doing the redemption clauses.

Over 28,000 persons have in all visited South Kensington Museum since its opening.

Moritz Grether, a saloon keeper, of Canton, Ohio, refused Henry Popp some liquor. The refusal cost him his life.

Rangoon is still afflicted with small-pox, and no wonder. The system of open drains in the streets prevails there.

The Archdeacon of Tuam, the Ven. James O'Sullivan, has been appointed to the vacant bishopric of Tuam.

After a service in Canterbury Cathedral, the remains of the late Dr. Parry, Bishop of Dover, were interred in the graveyard of St. Martin's Church.

Shortly after seven o'clock on Monday a man named Charles Adams, landlord of the Odd-fellows' Arms, Folkestone, jumped into the sea from the end of the pier.

Since the opening of the Home for Destitute Women and Children at Kilburn twelve years ago, more than 2,000 women have found refuge and help under its roof.

The meeting in London at which the Emin Baba Relief Committee will welcome Mr. Stanley has been fixed for the 2nd of May. The Prince of Wales will preside.

The Queen is, it is announced, will leave Aix-la-Bains on Tuesday next. A grand fête was organised on Monday by the inhabitants of the town in honour of the birthday of Princess Beatrice.

At a meeting at the Institute of Civil Engineers, Sir F. Braumwell described and exhibited a machine for welding metals by means of electricity, so as to supersede the use of rivets. The machine is on view.

A useful new departure of University extension is the arrangement of summer courses of practical lectures and demonstrations at the national institutions.

Madame Albani will not return to London quite so soon as was expected, as, after the opera season in New York closes, she proposed to go on a concert tour in Canada with Signor Lavelli and Signor Zardo.

There are big thieves in Austrian officialdom. A Vienna correspondent asserts that close inspection of the books has shown that frauds to the amount of 75,000 florins have been committed lately in the arsenal.

The Japanese are an extremely tidy people, and fold, brush, and put away their cherished dresses with a neatness which would charm and teach even an English country lady.

There is no subject on which the wags will not have their little joke. The latest on 'Change is that Stanley declares he never saw Emin Pacha. Why? Because there is no M in pacha.

In Denver, Rawlins county, Kansas, the father and mother of a family named Cleboard disappeared some time ago. Their remains were, a few days ago, found in a well. Their children are suspected of the crime.

A letter was read from Mr. Sexton, M.P., at the meeting of the Dublin Corporation, enclosing a cheque for £200, being the surplus of his salary as Lord Mayor for two years, after meeting all liabilities.

News has reached the Church Missionary Society of the death of Mr. Alexander Mackay, of the Victoria Nyanza Mission. Having been driven from Uganda, he retired to the south end of the lake, where Mr. Stanley found him in September.

The Duke of Cambridge presided at the annual meeting of the supporters of the Royal School for Daughters of Officers of the Army. He explained that the financial position of the institution was a cause of anxiety, though the institution was doing a good work and deserved success.

The Earl of Carlisle on Tuesday opened the new museum at Macclesfield Park, Shefield, to which the Ruskin collection has been removed from its less convenient position at Walkley. The noble earl and Mr. A. Sevren addressed the meeting on the influence of Mr. Ruskin's work and teaching.

The War Office authorities having decided to call up the Army Reserve, a number of men, in accordance with special orders, have presented themselves at the various barracks in London, as well as at other military centres, for the purpose of going through four days' drill with the new rifle just issued to the Army.

The Princess of Wales, accompanied by the Princesses Victoria and Maud of Wales, was on her way to attend the West Norfolk Hunt races at Eastwincote, when the feet of one of the carriage horses caught in the rails at the level crossing near the Grinstead and Midland Railway. The mishap caused much consternation and delay.

At a meeting of freemen in Newcastle the mayor called attention, in connection with the recent colliery disasters in Wales, to the Hartley Accident Fund, stating that a sum of £28,000 was lying practically without claim upon it, and he suggested that some action should be taken with the view of making it the nucleus of a National Miners' Relief Fund.

Mr. E. Boulnois, M.P., informed the Marylebone Board of Guardians at its last meeting that his duties in Parliament and in the County Council would preclude him from presiding over that body again; but he promised to occasionally assist the board in its work. Several members warmly eulogised the retiring chairman for his services during the past fifteen years, and a resolution was adopted expressing regret at his resignation.

Mr. Haden Corser, presiding at Dalton Police Court, gave his decision in the case where ten members of the Upper Holloway contingent of the Salvation Army were summoned for playing noisy instruments to call persons together. The magistrate dismissed the summonses, remarking that the defendants were playing to keep step and to accompany their hymn tunes, and were not playing noisy instruments to call people together. He, however, refused costs.

The new German Chancellor, at the opening of the Prussian Diet, made a statement which is said to have been received with warm approval by the House. The edifice of the Prussian State was, he said, cemented firmly enough to resist wind and weather. He had an undying belief in the future of Prussia and of the German empire, and promised to co-operate with all who were able to foster a monarchical feeling in Prussia and a national spirit in the empire.

An important step is being taken by the licensed victuallers to consolidate their existing defensive organisations. Hitherto there have been two bodies engaged in the work of defending the interests of the trade in and out of Parliament—the London and Provincial Defence League and the National Defence League. It has been decided to amalgamate these associations and constitute a central body, which shall act for the whole trade throughout the country.

A man named Morrison was charged at Greenwich Police Court with breaking into a house at New Cross and stealing property therefrom. The premises had been left on Sunday evening with no one in charge. A lady next door saw the man knock at the house and walk away. He returned, again knocked, and then burst the door open. The lady therupon applied to a neighbour, who fetched a constable. When the prisoner was apprehended he said, "I'll confess; I have got the property on me." He was remanded.

A new Lodge of Freemasons, styled the Duke of Fife Lodge, was consecrated the other evening at the Alexandra Hotel, Clapham Common. The Lodge is numbered 2,345 on the roll of the Grand Lodge of England, and the first name on the list of its founders is that of the Duke of Fife, Grand Master of Lancashire, who has consented to be elected an honorary member of the Lodge. The

ceremony of consecrating the Lodge was performed by Colonel Shadwell H. Clarke.

Durham produces more coal in a year than any other county in England.

Since 1876 the birth rate and death rate of London have been on the decline.

Princess Louise has two hobbies—painting and the collection of old silver.

One can be cremated in St. Louis for £5. This sum includes the price of an urn for one's ashes.

There are as many tigers as inhabitants in Annan, but the former are gradually getting the upper hand.

Tall men generally have long skulls, short men round skulls. Both have empty skulls occasionally.

It is said to be possible for a train to cross the Forth Bridge at the rate of a mile a minute without the slightest risk.

An infectious disease may easily be communicated by a kiss. Will the fact put a stop to kissing? Hardly.

In Germany the men as well as the women wear marriage rings. Should either die the survivor wears both.

The Sultan of Morocco has thirty-seven wives. His domestic affairs are more troublesome than his foreign relations.

There probably never was a small boy who did not feel sorry for his mother when he put on his first pair of trousers.

The newest thing in automatic machines is one that simply declines a penny and presents you with an advertisement.

The number of aliens arriving in London from European ports in 1889 was 9,840, compared with 10,553 in the previous year.

British and Irish emigrants in 1889 numbered 263,795; in other words, a population as large as that of Edinburgh left our shores.

Napoleon Bonaparte dictated and afterwards signed his love letters to Josephine—a somewhat formal method of love-making, surely.

Mr. Somervell, the new M.P. for Ayr, is so fond of his single eyeglass that a story is told of his having bathed with it.

An M.P. says he knows M.P.'s who dine on eighteenpence and a shilling at the House of Commons.

Every night of his life Mr. Gladstone reads an hour before going to bed. If it is morning before he goes to bed, he still has his hour's reading.

The Gilbert Starch Works, near Des Moines, Iowa (U.S.), have been destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at \$300,000. Two hundred persons are thus thrown out of employment.

Ignatius Donnelly, having failed to prove that Bacon wrote Shakespeare, has become disappointed with the world generally, and given up his literary and political ambitions.

The population of Rome has decreased nearly 30,000 during the past four years. The hand-organ industry in this country has increased perceptibly during that period.

A member of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards is the tallest soldier in the English Army. His measures 6ft. 7in., three-quarters of an inch more than a Scots Guard, who comes second.

The new duelling as practised in Virginia is to omit the bullets. The system is warranted not to hurt, and it satisfies wounded honour. It looks like a French invention.

In Buffalo the women disdain to sue for breach of promise. A Buffalo woman has cowhided and peppered in the eyes of a man who had jilted her. She has had seven offers of marriage since.

Bismarck is what in Germany they call a "chain-smoker"; that is, he smokes from morning till night without a break, lighting one cigar with the end of the other.

The highest abode in Europe will be a hut that the Italian Alpine Club are to erect in memory of the Duke d'Aosta on one of the summits of the Southern Alps.

The highest chimney in the world is one in connection with the imperial foundry at Halsbrueche, in Saxony. When it is fully built it will be 450 ft. high.

The Chatham Railway is represented as having paid last year local rates and taxes to the amount of £22 per mile, the South-Eastern £246, and the Brighton £207.

Last week there were 54 fatal cases of measles in London, 12 of scarlet fever, 21 of diphtheria, 12 of whooping-cough, one of typhus, four of enteric fever, and 10 of diarrhoea and dysentery.

Soft soap and potash will gradually turn dark hair a bright mahogany colour, and sub-carbonate of potash will impart an old gold colour to any hair.

"Why should we burden the people to build ships that may go to the bottom as readily as an egg-shell?" was the answer of the late Emperor Frederick to a statesman who argued that Germany ought to have a great fleet.

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THE GENERAL AND THE BABY.

Sequel to a Divorce Case.

General Henry Ronald Hislop M'Ivor, giving his address at Stafford-place, Buckingham Gate, appeared before Mr. Haden Corser, at Dalston Police Court, to an adjourned summons, calling upon him to show cause why he should not contribute to the support of the illegitimate child of Bertha Pamplin, 2, Baxter-road, Essex-road, of which it was alleged he was the father. Mr. C. Young appeared for the complainant; and Mr. Hutton Le Maistre for the defendant. —When the case was previously before the court it was stated that the defendant was petitioner and complainant in the M'Ivor v. M'Ivor divorce case, the girl having been nursemaid in Mrs. M'Ivor's employ. It was alleged that whilst the evidence for the case was being got together, and during the trial, the defendant was improperly intimate with the girl, the child being subsequently born. —The complainant, continuing her evidence, deposed that on one occasion defendant asked her to go away with him to the country, and when he visited her at Roachampton and Patney she was not getting evidence in connection with the divorce case. On February 23rd, 1889, the general asked her to meet him at the waiting-room of Charing Cross Railway Station. She did so, and subsequently they occupied the same room at his chambers in Salisbury-street. He told her they must not be seen to leave this place together, because he was quite sure he was being watched by a detective. He promised her that she should always be with him when he had got rid of "that horrid woman." On that occasion no one saw them enter the house, because he told her to go in and shut the door quietly. He gave her some stout and cake. On March 11th she met him at the Angel, when he sympathised with her because she said she felt bad. He gave her and her brother-in-law some drink, the general and she drinking from the same glass. She told the general she did not want to give evidence in the divorce case, and he dictated a letter for her to send to the solicitors saying that, owing to ill-health and unforeseen circumstances, she was going to Melbourne. Subsequently she decided not to go, and the general said she might procure a doctor's certificate and thus get out of attending the trial if she went to bed and made out that she was ill. In the presence of her brother-in-law (Mr. Sagers) the general said she was a good little woman, and told him to take care of her. The defendant also asked Sagers what he was. The general said, "I hope to get you something better; it won't be me, but by my influence." After the divorce case was over she wrote congratulating the general on the success of his cause, and he replied, thanking her, but saying it would "be six months before he was quite free from that woman." Subsequently she and her brother-in-law went to the general in Salisbury-street with a view to getting him to sign a paper promising to marry her as soon as he could, but he said he would put his hand to no paper for any one; and if he did give her what she wanted it would be no good to her until he was free. But when he was free he would marry her.

He also told her he had made provision for her and her child in the event of his death. She remarked that she would like to see the paper in which he had made such provision, at the same time telling him, "You know what I can do with you." He replied that he did not want any of her "bounce," and that if she "gave him away" she should never have a penny from him; but if she acted rightly he would do all he could for her—neither she nor her child should ever want. He asked her at this interview how she was going home. She said, "In a bus." But he paid for her and saw her into a hansom. In a letter after this she asked him for money, and he replied that he would never forget the great service she had rendered him in the divorce case; but he was then entirely without funds, though he expected in time to be worth £30,000. The reply to this was that she did not so much want money as peace of mind, and this could only be by fulfilling his promise to marry her. In company with her mother she visited the general at Salisbury-street on August 5th, and the mother asked if he could not give her (complainant) some assistance. He inquired if she had only 30s. in his pocket, and gave her a sovereign of it, at the same time adding that by the end of the year or the beginning of the next she should have £100. Her mother observed that she was not satisfied with a verbal promise, and the general wrote a paper in which he promised to pay "for services rendered." She objected to this, and he wrote another—"I hereby certify and promise to pay Bertha Pamplin the sum of £100 sterling at the end of 1889 or the beginning of 1890, and if she can live a chaste and moral life I will befriend her." (This she now produced, properly stamped.) Continuing her evidence, complainant stated that when this paper was signed the defendant kissed her, and said he would always be a friend to her. Her mother then spoke rather loudly, and he exclaimed, "Hush! I have my reputation to study." On August 6th the general visited her at Baxter-road, and gave her £1, at the same time stroking the head of the baby; but on a further application by her for money, the general made an appointment at a solicitor's (Mr. Collinson's), in St. Martin's-lane, where the latter, after telling her she might think herself lucky she was not in prison for endeavouring to get money from a gentleman by threats, produced a paper, in which the general agreed to give her £10 down and £1 per week until the promised £100 was paid. She hesitated, and the general said he would give her the £100 if he could get it from a friend in Paris. Subsequently she signed the paper and got the £10, after which she told the general that if he did not keep his word she would swear the child in a police court, and he would have so much a week to pay besides being exposed. In the aforesaid document there was a clause to the effect that she had falsely accused the general of being the father of the child, which she objected to, because he was. The solicitor, however, did not strike it out. On December 18th she received £1 from the general, and on January 4th another £1, since which she had not received anything, nor had she spoken to him.—At this point the case was again adjourned.

Keeping a Diary.

On the further hearing, in reply to Mr. Young, complainant said she remembered being in a cab with General M'Ivor on October 29th, 1888, when he advised her to wear a cloak in order to hide her condition. He suggested that when she explained to her friends she should say that somebody else was the father.—By Mr. Le Maistre: I did give evidence from notes the last time I was here, but those notes I have destroyed, because I had given my evidence from them. I copied those notes from my diary, in which I kept notes of every event as it occurred. I cannot point to any portion of the correspondence in which the general recognised the child, because he told me nothing should be written for fear the letters might be mislaid. I did write to the general when I had left the house saying I was upset over an affair of my own; but that was because John Cawte had been unfaithful to me. I went to the general's house as nursemaid whilst he was away. I kept a very strict watch upon Mrs. M'Ivor's proceedings, and eventually gave evidence against her and Caesar. I did say, "In giving my evidence I am only doing my duty to the lawful husband, and to the sweet, innocent children of General M'Ivor." I also wrote to the general saying, "Anything about amount of wages will not be a matter of perfect indifference to me so long as I can be again with the dear children." I wrote this because he said I should always be with him, and should never want. Mr. Sagers, my brother-in-law, had nothing to do with the divorce case, but I mentioned him in my letters to the general, because he (Sagers) saw Mrs. M'Ivor and Caesar on the top of a bus together. Whilst this evidence was being given General M'Ivor exhibited such signs of impatience—thumping the barrier and stamping his feet—that he had to be called to order by the magistrate, who said he would adjourn the case if defendant

did not behave in a proper manner.]—Defendant: I beg your pardon.—Mr. Haden Corser: Let the case proceed.—The complainant, in further cross-examination, said: I signed the document to the effect that I had falsely accused defendant of being the father of my child because I was urgently in need of money, and also because I did not want my brother-in-law or myself to be imprisoned, as the solicitor threatened. The document in question promised to give me £10 down and £1 per week until £100 was paid.—General M'Ivor again exhibited impatience, and asked the magistrate to adjourn the case, but Mr. Haden Corser replied that he had set apart that afternoon for the hearing, and did not see why he should do so.—General M'Ivor: My counsel has sat down and my case is not half finished.—Mrs. Yerward, of East-street, Farnham, mother of the complainant, was the next witness. She described the interview between herself and the general at Salisbury-street, where she asked for money for her daughter's child. When witness said, "You cannot disown being the father of her child," he made no reply. After this he requested witness to leave the room, and she distinctly heard him kiss Bertha. (Laughter.)—Mrs. Sarah Sagers, a widow, said she nursed complainant in her illness. She saw the general come to the house at Baxter-road, when he gave complainant £1. She said she did not want that, but the £10. He replied that the £1 was for a little nourishment, and had nothing to do with the £100, which she should have in due course. He also stroked the baby's head.—Thomas Sagers, brother-in-law to complainant, deposed to accompanying her to the general's house, when the defendant said, "She is a good little woman; take care of her, and I will make it worth your while." Witness again went to see the general to ask for money, and told him that unless the promised £100 was paid by the following Saturday he (witness) would open upon him if Bertha didn't. The general replied, "Hush, do you want to ruin me?" Witness answered, "You don't care how you ruin a poor girl." The defendant retorted, "That will be all right; neither she nor her child shall want." Witness also described the interview in the solicitor's office in St. Martin's-lane.—Mr. Haden Corser adjourned the trial as improperly intimated with the girl, the child being subsequently born.—The complainant, continuing her evidence, deposed that on one occasion defendant asked her to go away with him to the country, and when he visited her at Roachampton and Patney she was not getting evidence in connection with the divorce case. On February 23rd, 1889, the general asked her to meet him at the waiting-room of Charing Cross Railway Station. She did so, and subsequently they occupied the same room at his chambers in Salisbury-street. He told her they must not be seen to leave this place together, because he was quite sure he was being watched by a detective. He promised her that she should always be with him when he had got rid of "that horrid woman." On that occasion no one saw them enter the house, because he told her to go in and shut the door quietly. He gave her some stout and cake. On March 11th she met him at the Angel, when he sympathised with her because she said she felt bad. He gave her and her brother-in-law some drink, the general and she drinking from the same glass. She told the general she did not want to give evidence in the divorce case, and he dictated a letter for her to send to the solicitors saying that, owing to ill-health and unforeseen circumstances, she was going to Melbourne. Subsequently she decided not to go, and the general said she might procure a doctor's certificate and thus get out of attending the trial if she went to bed and made out that she was ill. In the presence of her brother-in-law (Mr. Sagers) the general said she was a good little woman, and told him to take care of her. The defendant also asked Sagers what he was. The general said, "I hope to get you something better; it won't be me, but by my influence." After the divorce case was over she wrote congratulating the general on the success of his cause, and he replied, thanking her, but saying it would "be six months before he was quite free from that woman." Subsequently she and her brother-in-law went to the general in Salisbury-street with a view to getting him to sign a paper promising to marry her as soon as he could, but he said he would put his hand to no paper for any one; and if he did give her what she wanted it would be no good to her until he was free. But when he was free he would marry her.

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JEREMY DIDDLES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE PEOPLE."

Sir.—I was rather amused on Sunday when I read the account of Jeremy Diddler—in fact, these things you hear tell of as to how some one or other gets an order for worthless things, and actually gets paid for same—cannot fail to bring a smile over one's countenance. I remember some ten or twelve years ago, being in business in the Walworth-road, a woman came in and began ordering things that I sold, and kept on until she ordered nearly every sort of article that I sold. The bill was made out and amounted to £6 or £7. She had a handful of coins which might have been sovereigns, real or sham, but in the meantime a man came in with brooms and brushes for sale. They were worth five or six times as much as they were worth for them, and wanted me to buy the brushes, three for 9s. He said the woman was his sister, and if I did not buy his brushes he would not let his sister buy anything of me, when I just asked him one question, which I would advise all the unwary to ask, "Did you ever catch a weasel asleep?" and they cleared out of the shop as if they knew something, and just as they reached the roadway there came a shirtmaker from further up the road they had certainly caught napping, for the woman had ordered some three or four dozen shirts and sundry other things, and her brother had sold him three brushes for 1s. 6d. I think it was, and they were really worth 1s. 6d. Of course they did not want any of the goods they ordered, and the police that were called said they could do nothing, as they sold the brushes, and the poor shirtmaker, too, I think; so you see all these things are quite old dodges, which I should have thought the most unwary would have been up to, but it seems they are not.—Hoping this may act as a warning to the poor shopkeeper, I am yours, &c., Edwin Day.

63, Roupell-street, Lambeth, S.E.

The following entrance scholarships at the Royal Holloway College, Egham, will be offered for competition in July:—Ten of £75 a year, two of £60 a year, and four of £50 a year, all tenable for three years in the college.

CHARLEY WEBB

(LATE OF NEWMARKET).

Brother to Mr. Webb, the jockey, of Walbrook, City and Suburb, E.C.

Telegraphic Address: "Jockey," London.

EPSOM SPRING MEETING.

I AM confident that when meeting, as well as at Sants, I do not exceed any of my previous endeavours to please my clients, and shall be sending out some real good information for the undermentioned:—

THE CITY AND SUBURBAN.

Selection I consider such a certainty that one and all must be on Price 5s.

The place horses are equally certain. Price 5s. the two.

GREAT METROPOLITAN STAKES.

Wim. 2s; or including place horses, 7s. 6d.

OVERNIGHT SELECTIONS.

Owing to the success I met with, with my overnight selections (where letters are preferred to telegram), I intend to make a general run of my business during the ensuing season, and I have arranged to send out in the coming week the following events:—

EPSOM.

WESTMINSTER PLATE.

GREAT SURREY HANDICAP.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

HYDE PARK PLATE.

SANDOWN.

PRINCESS OF WALES HANDICAP.

SANDOWN PARK, THE 100-YEAR-OLD STAKES.

WALTON TWO-YEAR-OLD RACE.

And my charge for the whole of the above will be 20s. or any single selection 3s. each.

Any of these selections can be sent by wire for 2s. 6d.

THE GREAT 20s. WORTH.

To meet the wishes of a great number of my clients, I shall send out a selection for each of the following events:—

THE CITY AND SUBURBAN.

TWO THOUSAND GUINEAS.

THE CHAMPION STAKES.

NEWMARKET STAKES.

PAYNE STAKES.

WEITSUNTE PLATE (MANCHESTER).

WOODCOTE PLATE (EPSOM).

THE DERBY.

THE OAKS.

And my charge for the whole twelve events will be 20s. or 1s. and the first six on receipt of 10s., or any single event for 2s. 6d.

EPSOM'S WEEK'S WIRES.

Fall Wires (strongly recommended)..... 20s.

Half Horses 12s. 6d.

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I beg of old and new subscribers not to miss any account I send you of two or three LONG PRICE CERTAIN TIERS and the like, which will be sent in good time.

Every one remembers my extraordinary success at this meeting.

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If you take any of your postal order, and make it payable to C. Webb, at Lombard-street, it can be recovered if lost: All communications to be addressed—

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TURF, FIELD, AND RIVER.

By LARRY LYNX.

"We have strongholds on Salisbury Plain and Newmarket Heath—strongholds that will contain 50,000 men who need no walls but their shields. England's ramparts are her men, and her strongest castles are her widest plains." Thus spake Harold, the last of the Saxon kings, when, in bondage to William the Norman, he replied to the latter's vaunt concerning his castles, their vannum and fosses. The Newmarket of to-day is no longer a stronghold for armed men, although no doubt Englishmen would make good use of the Heath for that purpose even now if necessary. Newmarket in these times is the stronghold of the horse, and its classic turf is almost sacred to the hoof beat of the thoroughbred, whilst the tramp of the mailed warrior in these piping times of peace is no longer heard. It was with a strong sense of relief that old stagers regathered at the opening of the Craven meeting on Tuesday, for the quiet of the little town in Cambridgeshire was a refreshing change from the bustle and noise of the great money meetings. The modern race fixture is all very well in its way, and no doubt racing de luxe is preferable to the old rough and tumble order of things, but Newmarket has its own clientele, and those who love sport for sport's sake, and not for its gambling surroundings, are not sorry to spend a day on the Heath with the madding crowd conspicuous by its absence.

The weather, the sport, the going, and the big fields all contributed to mark the opening of the season at headquarters auspiciously, but the public were not strongly in evidence, although the professional element was in force in Tattersall's ring and the Jockey Club members did not neglect to honour the occasion. Just as Shimmer, in the Leicestershire Handicap, by her miserable display, made the Lincolnshire Handicap running dead as false d'icers' oaths, so did Lord George, in the Crawford Plate, by his easy victory in the Trial Stakes, and the Jockey Club members did not compare to the cracks of the past. J. Rowe (Royal Victoria A.C.) won the final of the bantams from J. Clarke, of the Northampton A.C., but the verdict was, although just, not popular. G. F. Belsey (Polytechnic B.C.) won the feather weights, and H. A. J. Newton (Isle of Wight B.C.) the light weights final. J. Hoare (Orion G.S.) was victor in the middle weights, but his form was poor compared to men of the Douglas, Garland, and Bellhouse stamp, whilst J.

MONEY LENT (PRIVATELY) AT A FEW HOURS'
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LOANS WITH OR WITHOUT SURETIES.
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female) accommodated with LOANS from £5 to £100,
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the CLEAR DAY'S NOTICE, is £2 in the 5 inclusive
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22, CITY-HOUSE, E.C. Established 1882.
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Westbourne Park, 5, Carlton-terrace, Marlow-road.
Bromley, 106, Northwark Park-road, S.E.
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Marylebone, 8, Warren-street, Tottenham-court-road, W.
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ACTION AGAINST AN M.P. FOR BREACH OF PROMISE.

Heavy Damages Claimed.

In the Court of Queen's Bench on Thursday, before Mr. Justice Denman and a special jury, Miss Emmeline Hairs sued Sir George Elliot, M.P. for the Monmouth District, to recover damages laid at £5,000 for seduction and breach of promise of marriage. The plaintiff alleges in her pleading that the defendant promised her marriage, first on 17th May, 1886, and several times afterwards. The defendant denied both the promise and the seduction. Mr. Kemp, Q.C., and Mr. Horace Browne appeared for the plaintiff; and Sir Charles Russell and Mr. Lionel Hart for the defendant, who was present in court.

Statement for the Plaintiff.

—Mr. Kemp, Q.C., in opening the case for the plaintiff, said that he appeared for Miss Emmeline Hairs, and she brought the action against Sir George Elliot, who was at present member for Monmouth, for damages for breach of promise of marriage, which promise was made and repeated upon several occasions. The plaintiff, Miss Hairs, at the age of 15 went abroad for the purpose of studying for the operatic stage. She resided abroad for some years, and she was introduced there to many people of high position. In 1883 she became interested in some concession in coal mines in Silesia, and came over here to carry out the scheme if she possibly could. Here she was introduced to Sir George Elliot, a gentleman who was largely interested in coal mines. The defendant appeared to be very much smitten with her, and after a time intimacy took place. The plaintiff did not allege that she was in any way misled, or that she was induced to permit this by any promise of marriage. The intercourse continued for some time, and in February the plaintiff went to Paris and Vienna, and she wrote to the defendant to state the condition in which she was. She returned to this country in March, 1886, and she became very ill. When she was able to go out she met the defendant at a dinner party, and he expressed himself in terms of great sorrow for her illness. He begged her forgiveness, and said that he could only show his sorrow by asking her to become his wife. This, he understood, was the first time that Sir George had asked this lady to marry him. She assented to that proposition, and he requested to see her mother to communicate to and obtain her consent to the marriage. On the 31st May the defendant called upon the mother, spoke of the marriage, and told her that he had obtained her daughter's consent to it, and that he would make suitable settlements. But he said that he could not have the marriage take place until after he had arranged with his family. He was a man advanced in life, and his family would possibly be jealous at having introduced into the family a young woman like the plaintiff. Shortly after that plaintiff went to live at Halliford, in Middlesex, and the defendant went there more than once and the intimacy was renewed. He suggested that she and her mother should go to Whitby as his guests and for the improvement of her health. The marriage was constantly spoken of, and at the end of November, 1886, Miss Hairs being again ill, she was sent to winter in Algiers. She came back in March, 1887, and Sir George saw her on several occasions. She went to Germany in July, 1887, and while there he sent her £50 for a birthday present, and he wrote, "For Emmeline, with my love.—G. E." The defendant would rely upon the fact that no letters of his could be produced, for he took good care that there should be no letters. When the plaintiff and her mother lived at Crosswood House the defendant frequently visited her. A lady named Avant had introduced a system for employing ladies in art, and Miss Hairs took interest in it, and seemed desirous to join her in the business. In December Sir George went to Mrs. Avant and told her that he had expected to meet Miss Hairs, and said that he supposed that she knew that he was going to marry her. He also said that he did not understand why Miss Hairs should wish to put money into the business. There was no necessity for her doing so, and he did not wish her to do it. Sir George was about going away, when Miss Hairs came in, and he kissed her, and they appeared as persons who were engaged to one another. The plaintiff became again seriously ill, and went to Sir George and begged him to perform his promise of marriage. He said that he would do nothing of the kind. He, however, only laughed at her, and said, "I have been cautious enough not to put any single word into writing, and you can do as you like."

Evidence of Miss Hairs.

—Miss Emmeline Mary Hairs, the plaintiff, was called to prove the statements of her counsel, and she said that the first intimacy between them occurred at Brown's Hotel, in Piccadilly, a hotel at which she was staying when he called upon her in reference to her concession of coal mines. She added that later on he promised her marriage, and repeated that the plaintiff was engaged to one another. The plaintiff became again seriously ill, and went to Sir George and begged him to perform his promise of marriage. He said that he would do nothing of the kind. He, however, only laughed at her, and said, "I have been cautious enough not to put any single word into writing, and you can do as you like."

—Sir Charles Russell then addressed the jury for the defence. Rarely, if ever, had there been submitted to a court of justice a more shameless story of attempted imposture than the plaintiff's case. It was, from beginning to end, an attempt at blackmailing, and nothing but blackmailing. He reprehended in the strongest terms the conduct of the professional man who had charge of the case—conduct for which he might have to answer elsewhere. The whole case was propped up by the oaths of adventurers—for they were nothing better than adventurers who had supported the plaintiff's case. "Now, what is the history of this plaintiff?" asked Sir Charles, and proceeded to sketch it stage by stage as it came out in the cross-examination which he had conducted. He did not defend Sir George Elliot from foolishness of the gravest kind; but what was to be said of the woman who tempted him as she did? There was but one explanation of her conduct: she was not a virtuous woman, but an adventuress, who judged that Sir George Elliot was a man of position and means, from whom she might obtain the money she required. Miss Hairs had admitted that she sent Ledstone to the "nameless gentleman," but she denied that she authorised him to say that if money was not forthcoming his letters—paltry, unimportant letters as she says they are—would be published. But what happened immediately afterwards? Cheques to the amounts of £200, £500, £1,000, £300, £150, £100, and £300 were drawn in favour of Avant and Co. within the next six months, and the gentleman became security for £2,000 at the City Bank. The letters were then returned. Lastly, Sir Charles referred to the final interview, at which plaintiff made a proposal to Sir George Elliot which, if he had accepted it, would have placed him for the rest of his life in the power of two wicked and designing women.

—The Plaintiff Breaks Down.

—Mr. Kemp then summed up the case on behalf of the plaintiff. During the delivery of his speech Miss Hairs gave way to emotion, and was taken out of the court by her friend, Mrs. Avant. She returned before Mr. Kemp had concluded his speech. His peroration was received with applause.

Summing-up and Result.

—Mr. Justice Denman in summing up remarked that the jury need have no sympathy for either side.

There was no reason why they should commiserate with Sir George Elliot; while, on the other hand, the woman's own account of herself was a very bad one.

The issue before them was a very simple one.—The jury after being absent for some time returned into court, and intimated that they were unable to agree upon a verdict.

—They were consequently discharged.

THE FASTING MAN.

—At three o'clock on Friday afternoon Signor Giovanni Succi completed thirty-two days of abstinence from food, and has thus eight more days to fast for a successful conclusion. Whatever the result, he has already beaten all previous records in the fasting line, and is confident of bringing his present attempt to a satisfactory conclusion.

—In connection with the North Kensington Hamilton Habitation of the Primrose League, a constitutional entertainment will be given at Ladbrooke Hall, Ladbrooke Grove, on Wednesday evening next, when Captain Walter H. James will deliver an address.

—Mr. Charles F. Pardon, sporting editor of the Press Association, and a well-known sporting journalist, died suddenly on Friday afternoon.

He had been confined to his room for the past week suffering from congestion of the lungs, but died quite suddenly from failure of the heart's action.

Mr. Pardon was the president of the London Press Club, and was well-known in journalistic circles. He was only 60 years of age.

Was it Blackmailing?

—On resuming on Friday, the cross-examination of the plaintiff by Sir Charles Russell was proceeded with. She said it was stated on the previous day that Sir George lent her £200, but that was not so, for in consideration of that money she released a larger portion of the concession of the coal mine. The gentleman whose name was on the paper lent her money for her business. She wrote a letter, in which she referred to his personal relations with her, which she would not wish known. That simply meant his relations with her in her business, which she did not wish known.—If that threat did not mean blackmail, what did it mean? It did not mean blackmail. The gentleman was under the impression that if it were known he had placed money in the business it might be misconstrued.—Sir Charles Russell read a letter of the plaintiff's in which she spoke of money being advanced through Mr. Ledstone, and said their relations were of a strictly business character, and added, "And we feel rather vexed that any other construction than that should be placed upon it by you." It was further said, "You will remember I treated you very generously in the matter of the letters, receiving nothing for myself, but on the contrary giving you the firm's signature with money you advanced. Neither have I any wish to annoy you." Mr. Ledstone was a man of business, and was engaged in companies. She never told him to say that, if her terms were not agreed to, she would send the gentleman's letter to the *Pall Mall Gazette*. What happened was a pure business transaction.—Why should you have one penny for giving up a gentleman's letter? I did not receive anything.—Mr. Justice Denman: That was matter for observation.—Sir Charles: I am suggesting that you blackmailed people right and left.—Witness: And that imputation I deny.—In further cross-examination witness said. She frequently dined out at hotels whilst she was engaged to Sir George; but she constantly told him where she had been. What harm was there in it? She never instructed her solicitor to say that, relying upon the promise of the defendant to marry her, she allowed the defendant to seduce her.—Sir C. Russell: It was so stated in the plaintiff's statement of claim, whilst she said just the reverse in her evidence.—Witness: There was some mistake about that.—Witness continuing said, she was never intimate with any man before Sir George Elliot. There was no promise of marriage before the first intimacy. Soon after there was a miscarriage, and subsequently to that the intimacy was renewed, but upon a promise of marriage.

—The Mother's Evidence.

—Mrs. Harriet Hairs, the plaintiff's mother, said the defendant called on her in Norfolk-street in May, 1886, and told her he had made a proposal of marriage to her daughter, and would make handsome settlements. She believed that her daughter was present. He said that he had her daughter's

consent, and he asked witness's consent. He

said that he did not wish the marriage to be mentioned to any one whatever until he had communicated with his family, as he expected opposition.

He expected that his daughter would not be at all pleased. Witness said her daughter might do as she thought best. After that witness always received the defendant as her daughter's future husband. Witness had not the least idea of any improper intimacy with the defendant until the present action was commenced.—Sir Charles Russell read a paragraph from the Times, which described the plaintiff and her mother as having pursued a disreputable course in Paris.—Mr. Kemp: I do not know whether my learned friend relies upon the accuracy of statements that appear in the Times. (Loud laughter.)—Sir Charles Russell admitted that his learned friend had scored, but said he did rely upon the accuracy of this particular paragraph. (Laughter.)—Mrs. Louise Avant spoke to the defendant having called at her place at the request, as he said, of Miss Hairs. He talked of Miss Hairs, spoke of the unhappiness of his previous married life, and hoped that the coming marriage would be more fortunate. He was there for an hour or an hour and a half before Miss Hairs came in. When she came he kissed her and said how pleased he was to see her, and she was pleased to see him.—Mrs. Rhodes Goffe said she was for three years in the service of Mrs. Hairs, and she had heard the defendant say that he would marry the plaintiff.—This concluded the case for the plaintiff.

Sir George Elliot in the Box.

—Sir George Elliot was then called and examined by Sir Charles Russell. Defendant said he was now in his 76th year. He remembered receiving a letter introducing Miss Hairs to him in 1886. On the 4th January, 1886, he dined with her at Brown's Hotel. He got a good dinner, and some exceedingly good wine. Familiarities followed, but he did not entreat her. If there was anything of the sort it always came from the other side. Subsequently he received a letter from her making certain statements, which she repeated on meeting him a few weeks afterwards. —Did you on the 17th May, or upon any other day, or in any place, ever at any time make an offer of marriage to Miss Hairs, the plaintiff? Never, never.—Or was the subject of marriage ever mentioned between you? It has never been mentioned; and those persons who have said so to-day have not spoken the truth.—The old lady had spoken of an interview at which she alleged that you asked for her daughter's hand; do you remember that interview? Nothing of the kind ever occurred.—Referring to the allowed interview with Mrs. Avant, Sir Charles asked if it was true, as had been stated, that his married life had been an unhappy one. "My married life," replied Sir George in a voice choked with emotion, "was a very happy one; I never had an unhappy day." Sir Charles then asked as to the final interview of May 3rd, at which the plaintiff was turned adrift. On this occasion Miss Hairs made representations as to her condition, and made a proposal to him which he indignantly refused to entertain. "Madam," he said, "before I will become a party to such a thing, I would sooner die on the spot, and I suppose you will follow me." She then left. The word marriage was never mentioned between them, and he was perfectly thunderstruck when he got the notice, and found that he was in a case of breach of promise.—Sir George Elliot was then cross-examined by Mr. Kemp. Referring to what took place at Brown's Hotel, counsel remarked sarcastically, "Ah, the woman tempted you, and you fell?" "Now about that," replied Sir George. "I could tell you that it is the sorrow of my life." He had had several such "sorrows" in his life; but, in spite of the "sorrow," he continued the intimacy. He had embraced the mother. He had a large family, and was rather fond of kissing. (Laughter.)—Why did you kiss her? I don't know; she was a very comely old woman. I never had any sorrow about kissing her. (Loud laughter.)—Then the statements made by Mrs. Avant, by the mother, and by the plaintiff and the servant are all untrue. All untrue. There never was such a piece of iniquity.

Sir Charles Russell's Denunciations.

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THE ALLEGED CRUELTY TO A CHILD ACROBAT.

EXECUTION OF THE ATHERTON MURDERER.

William Chadwick, 22 years of age, labourer, was executed within Kirkdale Gaol, Liverpool, on Tuesday, for the wilful murder of Walter Davies, pawnbroker's assistant, at Atherton, on July 22nd, last year. The case was largely one of circumstantial evidence. Davies managed a shop at Atherton for a Mr. Low. On the day of the murder Davies was seen dressing the window at eight o'clock in the morning. Just before nine a neighbour, Mrs. Clews, went into the shop for something, but could not see Davies. She, however, heard a choking noise in the cellar, and ran to alarm to tell her son and her husband. Davies was then found lying in the cellar bleeding profusely from wounds in the head and neck, and he expired almost immediately. A quantity of watches and jewellery were missing, and the only clue at first was that a strange man had been seen in the shop, Davies was showing this man some handkerchiefs, one of which was eventually traced to Chadwick's possession. Three witnesses later said they saw the accused near Atherton, and one noticed that he had a mutilated finger. The prisoner was not at first suspected of the murder, and the police arrested a man named Lorn. In the meantime it came out that part of the stolen property had been found in pawnbrokers' shops at Manchester and Liverpool. This led to the arrest of the prisoner, who was still in possession of some of the stolen goods. Chadwick was also identified as having pawned some of the articles, including Davies's watch, which was pledged five hours after the discovery of the murder. Berry was the executioner. When being led to the scaffold and the chaplain was reading the prayers the prisoner said, "Give my love to my dear wife," to which the rev. gentleman replied "Yes," and continued his devotions. The condemned man's last words were "Good-bye; God bless you all," upon which the chaplain said "God bless you, my lad." Chadwick left behind him a written statement protesting his innocence, which will be forwarded to the Home Secretary.

Chadwick's Last Letter to his Wife.

Chadwick states, in a farewell letter which his wife received on Wednesday, that although he had things to confess he was innocent of the murder. People would say that she was the wife of a dishonest man; but he thanked God he was not the wife of a murderer. He freely forgave those who had been led away to swear to his identity.

"IN THE SWIM."

BY A CITY SHARK.

The markets have become quite lively all of a sudden, with a distinct tendency towards higher prices. This change is partly due to the return of the great operators from their holidays, and partly to quiet investments. It would be risky, however, to assume as yet that this new mood will last. There are many reasons why it should, notably the abundance of money, the briskness of trade, the complete absence of war alarms, and the knocking out of so many weak speculators for the rise. But unless buyers shake off the timidity which has affected them throughout the year, the "bears" will continue to have the best of the deal. They are full of courage and of cash, thanks to their recent winnings, nor will they give up the battle without a hard and prolonged fight. All the same, it seems to me, judging from present appearances, that they are doomed to be worsted, and I therefore counsel moderate buying in English rails, especially Great Easterns, Great Westerns, and District. I include the last, named on the chance that the Military and French Exhibitions will give a bit of a spurt to the traffic receipts, and so run the shares up by a few points. Turning to the foreign department, I can claim credit for having been very much on the spot last week when I recommended Cedulas for speculative investment. They have had a really remarkable rise already, and I am by no means sure that it is ended. Still, the venture being so eminently risky, I cannot advise my clients to hold on for a big thing; they have made enough to be satisfied with for the present. A safer game would be to buy Brazilian bonds. They cannot remain much longer in their present depressed condition. My latest advices from Rio speak very favourably of the continuous consolidation of the Republic, and also of the universal resolve to submit to any sacrifices sooner than break faith in the slightest degree with the foreign creditors of the State. Turning to American rails, their buoyancy, after such prolonged stagnation, might almost justify belief that the Jerome Dilders of New York have made up their minds for a "boom." But they have too often made that pretence for John Bull to suffer himself to be entrapped again. There may be genuineness in this sudden movement, but it is as likely as not to prove another catch-*em-alive* manoeuvre. South African gold mines are very much more tempting than Yanks at present quotations. Now that the former have had such a tremendous shake-down, some are worth buying on the chance of a strong reaction setting in. It is, of course, pure gambling, and one should take a hand unless prepared to lose every farthing he risks. But if matters come off, I anticipate big profits will accrue to buyers of Salisbury, Oceana, City and Suburban, and Summer and Jack at current rates. Nitrates still wear a fussy and repellent look, there being ominous rumours that the production largely exceeds demand, and that over-stocking has reached dangerous dimensions. It will be safer, therefore, to leave them severely alone.

MONEY MARKET.

CITY, Saturday.

Little business was done on the Stock Exchange to-day. The Funds were well maintained. The feature in Foreign Government Securities was a further fall of 1/4 in Peruvians. Home Railways were irregular. American Railways continued firm. Canadian Lines were neglected. Mining Shares were quiet. Latest quotations:—Consols, 98 1/2; ditto account, 98 5/16; Two-and-a-Half per Cent., 95 1/2.

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Argentine, 198, 80, 90
Chilian, 188, 103, 4
Egyptian, 100, 93, 3
Finnish, 100, 93, 3
Ditto Dalmatian, 88, 6
Ditto Domain, 104, 55
Ditto 4 per Cent., 73, 6
French 3 per Cent., 89, 5
Hungarian 4 p. C., 100, 87, 5
Mexican 5 p. C., 100, 85, 6
Paraguayan Bonds, 188, 40, 2
Venezuela, 100, 82

RAILWAYS.

Brighton Ordinary, 153, 60
Ditto District, 153, 58
Caledonian, 118, 116
Chatham Ordinary, 234, 26
Ditto, Pref., 109, 26
East Lancs., 102, 103
East Lancs. & M. R., 98, 102
Great Central, 112, 123
Great Northern, 123, 2
Ditto, 101, 2
Great Western, 161, 162
Hall and Bank, 121, 1
Lancs. & Yorkshire, 121, 1
London & Western, 155, 6

UNITED STATES RAILWAYS.

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